



REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02246 9917

Gc
974.901
M58M

2265017

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

MONROE TOWNSHIP

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

1838 • 1938

CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORMATION OF THE TOWNSHIP

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

HARRY L. HOPKINS, *Administrator*

ELLEN S. WOODWARD, *Assistant Administrator*

HENRY G. ALSBERG, *Director of Federal Writers' Project*



MONROE TOWNSHIP

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

1838-1938

Written and Illustrated
by the

FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

State of New Jersey

SPONSORED BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

1938

American Guide Series

CONTENTS

I	TODAY	6
II	HISTORY	11
	Settlement and Growth	11
	Formation of the Township	19
	The Civil War	25
	Political Developments	27
	The Twentieth Century	34
	Police Department	39
	Post Office	43
	The Poor and Relief	45
III	AGRICULTURE	48
IV	COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	57
V	TRANSPORTATION	86
VI	COMMUNITY LIFE	92
	Sunday Schools	93
	The Harvest Home	95
	Early Organizations	95
	Agricultural Societies	96
	Lodges and Literature	98
	Sport	100
	Social Life Today	101
VII	SCHOOLS	104
VIII	NEW JERSEY STATE HOME FOR BOYS	111
IX	CHURCHES	114
	CHRONOLOGY	132
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	134
	INDEX	135

ILLUSTRATIONS

R. F. D.	Frontispiece
Town Hall, Prospect Plains	8
" . . . rich farmland and dark woodland"	10
Map of Monroe Township	12
Monroe Hotel, Half Acre, on Election Day, c. 1885	20
Railroad House, Prospect Plains, c. 1890	24
Township Financial Statement, 1876	28
Police Headquarters	40
Post Office and General Store, Prospect Plains	44
Burial Ground of the Applegate Family, Old Church	47
"The first small dwellings . . . have been replaced by large, sturdy, frame farmhouses flanked by red-painted barns and sheds"	50
Cranberry Pickers	52
Potato Pickers and Picking Machine	55
"Very little livestock is kept . . ." Monroe Hotel, c. 1890	56
Bennet & Clayton Co., Inc., Prospect Plains	72
Red Tavern, Applegarth	75
Applegarth Today	76
Physical Culture City, Outcalt	80
Outcalt Today	82
Forsgate Farms Dairy	84
<i>John Bull</i> , First Locomotive to Run Through Monroe Township	88
Section of Original Track of the Camden and Amboy Railroad	89
Original Jamesburg Railroad Station	90
Sunday School, Gravel Hill	94
Visiting Over the Fence, Half Acre	102
Gravel Hill School, c. 1885	105
School No. 2, Applegarth Road	108
State Home for Boys, Jamesburg, c. 1967	113
First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury	115
St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, Spotswood	118
Reformed Dutch Church, Spotswood	121
Methodist Protestant Church, Union Valley	123
Presbyterian Church, Jamesburg	125
First Baptist Church, Jamesburg	128
Methodist Episcopal Church, Jamesburg	128
St. James' Church, Jamesburg	128

TODAY

In this year 1938, Monroe Township reaches the patriarchal age of one hundred. Taking advantage of the prerogative of centenarians, Monroe has chosen to celebrate the occasion by writing its memoirs. The decision is sanctioned by a State Act of 1894 which authorizes "every township of this State" to appropriate the sum of money necessary "to celebrate the centennial anniversary of its existence in such manner as its township committee may by resolution direct."

This book, ghost-written by the Federal Writers' Project of New Jersey, is the result of prodigious feats of memory on the part of the township's older inhabitants, and earnest and thorough ransacking of attics and old trunks by the younger. Abijah Applegate came forward with some good yarns about his storekeeping days back in 1890; Elva O'Keefe rummaged around in the little iron safe that squats in the corner of her living room and brought forth the tattered account books of her great-great-grandfather, who cobbled for the township's elite just after the Revolution. Glenn Davison, down in Jamesburg, who has become the unofficial keeper of that town's historical relics, made available his collection of manuscripts, photographs and records; Maitland Vandenberg tenderly brought out of its dusty resting place the township's minute book that his great-grandfather, Robert Vandenberg, had kept in his fine, neat handwriting for over 30 years. John Butcher, who knows everyone and his grandfather, remembered and told too many things to mention here; Ed Johnson, whose folks came to the township early in the 18th century, reached down into the back of the big bottom drawer of the roll-top desk in his dining room and brought up the metal box which contains the old indentures of slaves, accounts and diaries kept by the Matthias's and Cornelius's who have alternated in his family. The little one-story frame library behind the grade school in Jamesburg discovered that it had kept a com-

plete file of the township's one and only newspaper, the *Jamesburg Record*, long since dead; and John Fortsch sat down and patiently told, month by month, just how he manages to raise potatoes so successfully. Charley Dey, Mrs. Herbert Vandenberg and Bessie Morse have carefully guarded in their memories the story of the Union Valley Methodist Protestant Church, which burned with all its records in 1925. And to give the story a backbone of authenticated fact, Clerk Fred Clayton spread out the bulky volumes of the township committee's minutes. All through Monroe these and others diligently swelled the volume of old yellowed letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, minute books, indentures and reminiscences which made up the raw material of this book.

Actually the hundredth anniversary merely celebrates Monroe's coming of age. Life began in the late 17th century when refugees from Scotland's recently enacted decree against those who "kept conventicles" settled along the banks of the Manalapan and Matchaponix creeks and set up the farms which for the past 250 years have been cultivated by their children and children's children.

Monroe Township, in the southeastern part of Middlesex County, borders on both Monmouth and Mercer County. Matchaponix Creek is the northeast boundary. Manalapan Creek, coming northwest through the center, becomes a lake at Jamesburg and then turns to form part of the northern boundary. The two streams unite at Spotswood as South River, which meanders to Raritan River. Cranbury Brook, Cedar Brook and Branches of Millstone River water the southern part of the township.

Nearly a dozen communities, hardly more than haphazard collections of a few houses each, are scattered throughout Monroe—Applegarth, Gravel Hill, Half Acre, Hoffman Station, Matchaponix, Old Church, Outcalt, Prospect Plains, Texas, Tracy Station and Union Valley. The Borough of Jamesburg and the State Home for Boys are wholly surrounded by the township.

Throughout its history Monroe has remained agricultural. Today, as in the beginning, its inhabitants derive their livelihood from farming. The fertile fields cultivated from woodland and meadow have been extended until now there are 18,000 acres under cultivation. The first small dwellings constructed by the farmers have been replaced by large, sturdy, frame farmhouses flanked by red-painted barns and sheds. The friendly hamlets consisting of a scattering of simple, comfortable homes break the rolling sweep of rich farmland and dark woodland. A network of good roads, some dirt, some "black top,"



*Town Hall.
Prospect Plains*

and a few concrete, serves the township's commercial and social needs, providing an outlet for its produce, and connecting it with the shops, theatres and libraries of New Brunswick and Trenton, each about 13 miles away. Even the pleasures of 45-mile-distant New York City have been brought closer to Monroe's doorstep through the assimilation of the Camden and Amboy Railroad by the Pennsylvania system.

Monroe has not changed essentially since its early days. The commercial and industrial communities which grew up within the township, such as Jamesburg, Spotswood and Cranbury, split off as independent political units during the 19th century, leaving Monroe as rural as ever. Monroe reserves for itself a single country store which houses the post office in Prospect Plains, several taverns, the Bennett and Clayton potato exchange and Forsgate Farms Dairy, both necessary to its agricultural economy.

The original Scottish, English and Dutch stock has been considerably augmented during the past century by Italian and Irish immigrants who came to work in Jamesburg's freight yards and factories. More recently a large number of second-generation Polish and Hungarian farmers, forced out of Long Island by urbanization, have migrated to farms in the township and continue to raise vegetables. The total population of 2,894 listed in the 1930 census includes 2,158 native-born whites, of whom 34 percent had foreign parents; 508 foreign-born and 228 Negroes.

In its political development, Monroe can be regarded as a typical American township, that earliest form of American democracy where the "voice of the people" was a fact. Gordon's *Gazetteer* (1834) commented that "in these sub-divisions of the State we have examples of a pure democracy and simple representative government. The people in their township meetings discuss their common wants, propose the remedies, and appoint the agents to give them effect."

"Pure democracy and simple representative government" have changed very little in the course of Monroe's 100 years. Today's monthly meetings of the township committee have taken the place of the early 19th century town meeting. To these open meetings Monroe's inhabitants may come and express their desires in the matter of roads, common lands and the budget. For the past several decades the citizens were content to leave the routine of township business to their elected representatives. But with the recent pressure of economic problems and a divided point of view on methods of coping with them, the township meeting has again become an integral part of the democratic process.

Today, when the township committee meets, the little Prospect Plains Town Hall, a recently converted schoolhouse, becomes the focus for all elements of the community—taxpayers, with anxious eyes on the budget; neighborhood groups petitioning for road or other improvements; persons on relief; and the Workers Alliance, representing the WPA workers. Petitions, suggestions and demands are heard by the three township committeemen and a just compromise is usually effected. Not the least among the township chairman's duties is that of soothing ruffled tempers. On one such occasion the desired sedative was administered by calling upon an amateur musician in the audience to play the piano while the assembled meeting joined in singing.



" . . . rich farmland and dark woodland"

HISTORY

Settlement and Growth

Monroe's present 43.8 square miles were originally part of that vast area known as Piscataway, which included all the territory west of Elizabeth and Woodbridge to the West Jersey boundary line running from Little Egg Harbor to Walpack Center on the Delaware River. Monroe then became a portion of the sprawling tract known as the South Ward of Perth Amboy, and later was part of South Amboy when that township was created in 1685.

A map purporting to show the settled portions of New Jersey as of 1682 indicates a "Spotteswoode" on Lawrie's Road (the Amboy-Bordentown road). Four years later John Reid's map also showed Spotswood, which then covered a large area including much of southern Middlesex County and part of Monmouth County. No doubt it was the opening of Lawrie's Road in 1684, plus the extensive water power available from the Manalapan and Matchaponix Creeks, that made Spotswood the site of the first settlement in this southern portion of Middlesex County.

The first white settler was James Johnstone, a son of John Johnstone of Ochiltree, Scotland, a member of the Spotswood clan. He built his home between Spotswood and Jamesburg in 1685. The East Jersey proprietors' offer in 1684 of 50 acres of land to each head of a family and 25 acres to each additional member of the household induced him to import a number of indentured servants. Among those who arrived in 1685 were Margaret Welch, Margaret Eubb, Alexr. Adam, William Mountt, John English, John Gibb, George Fford and Robert Moure.

These first settlers along the banks of the Manalapan and Matchaponix were quickly followed by others who, no doubt, were attracted by such glowing letters as that sent by James Johnstone to his brother John in Edinburgh:



MONROE TOWNSHIP
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY
 FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT, W.P.A.
 1938

I have taken up a part of my land 9 miles from Amboy and 4 miles from Piscataway, and as far from the nearest part of the Raritan on the Brook side, where there are exceeding great plains without any timber, where there is excellent Gunning for deers and Turkies of which there is a great plenty and easily shot . . . In the summer there is plenty of Fruits, Peaches, Walnuts, Chestnuts, Strawberries and another berry like Currents; Vines are as good as anywhere. I and all who have come over have kept our health very well; our food hath for the most part been Venison we got from the Indians, which I like exceedingly well. The Indian Corn, Indian Beans and Pease are pleasing grains. We have good fishing . . . Wolves are so far from troubling men, that if a man should lay a Glove on a Carcass or their prey, they will yell but not come nigh it.

Among those who came during the latter part of the 17th century were Robert Barclay, John Bass, James Campbell, E. John Crawford, William Davidson, James Edwards, Thomas Edwards, David Falconer, Eliphelett Frazie, Thomas Gordon, Joseph Grover, Elizabeth Hutton, William Merrill, James Miller, Clement Plumstead, James Reid, Peter Sonmans, Peter Stout, Jacob Truex and Peter Wilson. Most were political and religious refugees who worked out their passage money as indentured servants to their wealthier compatriots.

Thomas Warne, a carpenter and son of a Dublin merchant, came to Spotswood before the end of the century. In 1688 there is a record of his transferring to his apprentice, John Kaighin, 145 acres near Spotswood. Kaighin sold this tract to another carpenter, Robert Ray, who later purchased land from John Reid and James Miller.

According to a certificate issued to Warne in 1714 foxes must have been as troublesome as wolves: "These are to Certifie that Thomas Warne hath brought unto us the heads of two Red Foxes,

KEY TO MAP

Outcalt, original site of Physical Culture City.
Appleby Estate.
Vohman cranberry bogs.
Monroe Township Police Headquarters.
Monroe Hotel, Half Acre, now private residence.

6. *Town Hall.*
 7. *Railroad House, now private residence.*
 8. *Forsgate Farms Dairy.*
 9. *Union Valley M. P. cemetery and memorial.*
 10. *Old Church schoolhouse.*
 11. *Old burial ground.*

12. *Courtney's Hotel, on site of Red Tavern.*
 13. *Distillery, built in 1862.*
 14. *State Home for Boys.*
 15. *Fragment of original Camden & Amboy track.*
 16. *Prospect Plains post office.*

and William Carhart one, from which the eares were Cutt off as the Law Requires, for which you are to pay them as by Law Appointed."

As the water-power site at the junction of the Manalapan and Matchaponix Creeks attracted settlers to Spotswood, so the brook at Cranbury attracted others. The first known settler near Cranbury was a Burlington baker, Josiah Pricket, who came in 1697. Evidently he purchased his land from one of the two proprietors (John Haywood and Thomas Cooper) who owned all the area around Cranbury. Pricket disposed of "all of his improvements at Cranbury Brook now occupied by Anthony Ashmore" to John Harrison, a merchant of Flushing, Long Island. Harrison in 1699 purchased additional land from the Indian sachems Hugon and Lumoseecon, in order to improve a section of the turnpike from Burlington to New York. In 1703 Philip French was granted a tract north of the brook. Several years later all the land on which Cranbury now stands was purchased by Peter Wycoff.

A picture of Colonial Monroe is given in the advertising columns of that day's metropolitan newspapers. The *American Weekly Mercury* of March 23-30, 1732, announced, "The House and Land formerly belonging to George Rescarrick, lying on Cranberry Brook, on the Post Road from Amboy to Burlington . . . a very convenient house for the Entertainment of travelers . . ." The same publication carried this advertisement on April 8, 1736: "A Plantation . . . containing 1500 Acres, on which there is a good Dwelling House, with four Fire Rooms, a Cellar with two Rooms above it, a Barn, Stable, and a large Orchard, with 130 Acres of Clear Land adjoining to it . . . and is fit for a Tavern or Store-keeper, being only Eleven Miles from the landing at South River Bridge." Andrew Perce, living on the "Poste-Rode" near Cranbury Brook, offered in the *Mercury* of January 31, 1726, a reward of 40 shillings for the return of a stolen stallion; an advertisement in the *New York Gazette* offered for sale "a very good Negro Man Slave, fit for Country Work, to be sold by the said James Rothead the owner of said Plantation." Daniel Parine's gun went off while sharpening a knife on the flint and a bullet and "seven swan shot" struck his wife. "Fortunately the shot was deadened by her quilt petticoat. Her life was dispaired of she being with child and near her time, but it is hoped that her inwards are not hurt and she is recovered," remarked the *Boston Weekly News-Letter* of September 23, 1731.

Religious fervor, always strong among the farmers who had come to this country to escape religious persecution, was at its peak in the early years of the 18th century, when Whitefield and other noted

preachers were conducting a great revival, and Gilbert Tennent was preaching his militant gospel.

The township was thrown into a turmoil in May 1746 when David Brainerd brought his Indian mission from Crosswick and established the Indian town of Bethel just outside of what is now Jamesburg. James Blain protested to the Governor:

That now 300 Indians expect to settle upon land belonging to John Falconer of London under the pretended cause that they are to be taught the Christian religion by one Mr. Brainiard, for which purpose they are to build a town, a church and a school house. The neighbors there are extremely alarmed at this number of Indians coming to settle there, where it is esteemed impossible for such a number to live without stealing or killing their neighbors' creatures.

The number of Indians reported was an exaggeration to lend force to the complaint.

David Brainerd, born in 1718, had been expelled from Yale for saying that one of the tutors had "no more grace than this chair" and for attending a Separatist meeting. He was licensed to preach by the Association of Ministers at Danbury, Conn., in 1742, and then was appointed a missionary to the Indians of New York by the Correspondents of the Society in Scotland for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. In 1744 Brainerd was ordained by the Presbytery of New York in Newark, and continued his missionary work in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Tradition has it that his friends, incensed because the president of Yale had refused to accept his apology, established the College of New Jersey (Princeton University) in competition with the older school. The first three presidents of Princeton were among these friends.

When Brainerd first came to Crosswick, fewer than 10 Indians gathered to hear him; he brought 120 converts to Bethel. Early in 1747 tuberculosis forced him to stop. He died in October of that year at the Northampton, Mass., home of Jonathan Edwards, to whose daughter Jerusha he was engaged at the time. He was known as a mystic of saintly character, indifferent to any risk or labor.

His brother John had been appointed to replace him as missionary to the New Jersey Indians. When John arrived he found that the Bethel settlement had developed into a compact, self-sustaining community of 80 acres of cleared woodland and a flourishing cabin town that included a schoolhouse and a home for the pastor.

Said John Brainerd:

It pleased the Lord greatly to smile on my brother's endeavours, and in the most remarkable manner to open the eyes of the poor savages, and to turn them from Satan to God. The Indians had settled themselves on a tract of land near Cranberry, far better (than Crossweeksung) for cultivation and more commodious for such a number as were now gathered together. In this situation I found the Indians when I arrived among them at their new settlement, called Bethel, about the middle of April, 1747. And this summer officiated for my brother who took a journey to the eastward, thinking it might possibly be a means of recovering his health.

There are now belonging to the Society of Indians something upward of one hundred and sixty persons, old and young, who, I think, may properly be called inhabitants of the town. Among these there are thirty-seven who have been admitted to the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and who, in a judgment of charity, appear to have experienced a work of saving grace in their hearts. There are also several others who, as I have reason to think, are truly religious, and stand as proper candidates for those gospel ordinances.

The next thing I shall mention is the school, which consists of fifty-three children, who properly belong to it and generally attend upon it; twenty-seven of these read in the Testament, and most of them can say the Assembly's Shorter Catechism throughout by heart. Others read in Psalters, Spelling-books, and Primers, and many of them can say the Catechism half through. These children are many of them under religious impressions, and seem to be earnestly inquiring the way to Zion; and some, even of the newcomers, are much concerned for the salvation of their souls, and all that are grown to any considerable bigness (so far as we can know by observing and inquiring of their parents, and of one concerning another) do live in the constant performance of secret duties.

As touching their secular affairs, they are much more comfortable than they were. They have upwards of forty acres of English grain in the ground, and near about so much Indian corn; and they do, I think, in general follow their secular business as well as can be expected, considering they have all their days been used to sloth and idleness.

His diary records the visit of Governor Belcher of New Jersey on October 30, 1749: "the governor, his lady, etc., walked through the town, to visit the Indians and see their town and dwellings."

By 1752 Brainerd was able to report that "We have now near forty families belonging to our society, and our church consists of thirty-seven communicants, besides two or three more that stand as candidates for admission," and the school's honor student was at Princeton studying to become a missionary. Brainerd reported putting out some of the Indian boys to learn trades and mentioned plans for a working school for girls where they were to be taught to "spin, knit, etc."

It appears that the greatest fault Brainerd had to combat in the Indians was drunkenness. "And our neighbors the white people are not a little accessory to the commission of this evil. There is scarce one of them that has strong liquor to dispose of but what will sell to the Indians . . . and some, I have been told, will buy drink in taverns and public houses, and give them, to see if they cannot make Christian Indians drunk as well as others." The second most serious difficulty, according to Brainerd was the "indolent, wandering, unsteady

disposition which greatly prevails among them . . . It is almost as difficult to reform them upon this point as to change their color."

Brainerd continued to conduct religious and secular teaching at Bethel until about 1760 when the Indians were moved to Brotherton in Burlington County, where the State had set aside a reservation for them and placed Brainerd in charge. Prior to this, however, the machinations of Robert Hunter Morris, Chief Justice of New Jersey—and chief land-grabber—had deprived the Indians of their land at Bethel and dispossessed them. The work of the Brainerds among the Indians was considerably aided by William Tennent, whose influence extended throughout the territory for almost 50 years. His personality was a powerful force in unifying the Presbyterians throughout Middlesex and Monmouth Counties.

Agriculturally and industrially Monroe reached a high level before the Revolution cut across and temporarily halted the community's growth. The township was part of the rich grain and cattle area of the Atlantic seaboard. Conveniently situated, close to New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, with boats constantly leaving nearby South River landing for New York, it had a fine outlet for its produce. There were iron works, gristmills and places of worship. The stage wagon between Philadelphia and New York stopped Tuesdays and Fridays at James Predmore's house in Cranbury to change horses. At Jamesburg the Manalapan was dammed to furnish power for a gristmill; at Spotswood there were forges and mills. Throughout the township craftsmen plied their trades; hides were tanned, candles made, and harness fashioned.

As the Revolution neared, large landowners found themselves unable to pay their debts because of the scarcity of money; during the decade preceding the Revolution many of these large estates were divided and sold. At the outbreak of the Revolution the local Tories packed up their belongings and fled. Among those who remained faithful to the Crown were John Brown, Robert H. Crow, John Mount, John Perine, Lord Rosehill of Spotswood and Miles Shearbrook. When Shearbrook's confiscated property was sold in Spotswood it included forges, gristmills, dwellings, carriages and Negroes.

Not all the large landowners were on the side of the King. For example, Jeston Homfrey, who died in 1792, was mourned as "a real loss to his country, which he served in several respectable characters and distinguished himself as the friend of his country and support of its rights and liberty—during riots and commotions and times of scarcity."

Monroe played its part in the Revolutionary War as a camping ground for the American army preceding the Battle of Monmouth. A letter written by Washington on July 1, 1778, tells that "In the evening of the same day (June 25) the whole army advanced from Kingston and arrived at Cranbury early next morning." - The main army remained encamped in and near Cranbury until the battle was fought on June 28.

There is a story concerning William Lyon, a Continental soldier who died in the township in 1841. One day while marching with bare, bloody feet over frozen ground near Trenton he took a pair of stockings from a clothesline. When the woman of the house reproached him, he pointed to his bloody feet. It is said that Washington saw him and remarked, "My brave boy, you deserve a better fate!" Lyon's reply was, "There is no danger of my feet freezing as long as the blood runs."

Monroe escaped much of the depredation suffered by the inhabitants of Middlesex County when the British camped in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, although there were a few scattered raids. On the other hand, the Middlesex militia under Col. John Nielson avenged the Colonial cause in a fairly successful raid, January 20, 1777, on the forge and other properties owned by Tories in Spotswood. Among the property taken were "fifty-four Tons, eighteen hundred Weight of Bar Iron, two Thousand six Hundred & eighty Pounds Weight of Beef, two Thousand six Hundred & forty-six Weight of Pork and two Kegs of Hogs Lard."

A brutal and senseless attack was made on Anthony Applegate near Red Tavern. This was probably a local matter and not a raid by soldiers. During the war Applegate tried to remain neutral. One night he was awakened by loud knocking. When he opened the door, he was killed by a band of men. Applegate, it is said, lies buried in the private burial ground of the Applegate family on a farm at Old Church. Two tall cedars grow in the tiny rectangle, fenced by weather-beaten sandstone blocks.

Economically the township suffered with the rest of the country from a scarcity of manufactured goods and inflation of the Continental currency. But redoubled efforts along the home-industry line more than made up for the lack. Instead of paying \$600 in Continental money for a pair of boots or \$100 for a handkerchief, the farmers and their wives fashioned home-tanned leather into shoes, and pounded flax and wove cloth for clothes.

This situation continued beyond the close of the war, but in the

1780's and '90's an improvement set in. Among the signs of returning prosperity was the sale of a mill on the Manalapan, where Jamesburg now stands. George Rossell bought the property from William Davidson in 1789. Increased traffic on the Bordentown-Amboy post road brought more business to the wayside inns. Blacksmith shops, wheelwright shops and stores were opened in the little villages through which the stagecoaches passed: Spotswood, Rhode Hall and Cranbury. Red Tavern got its share of the trade along the road from Cranbury to Englishtown.

Among the papers of Matthias Johnson are preserved some old indentures which give a picture of working conditions in this period. The apprentices were "not to play at cards or dice, frequent taverns . . ." or get married. A bill of sale reads: "and sell unto said Matthias Johnson one Negro girl twelve years of age named Elizabeth, to have and hold said girl for nine years," for a consideration of \$75.

Money among the farmers was still scarce; barter was the basis of most business transactions. Eggs, cords of wood, calfskins and potatoes were traded for tobacco, molasses and salt. Candlewick and ink powder were purchased in order to make one's own candles and ink. Politically, the ownership of property was still the principal factor determining a person's participation in the government.

Formation of the Township

On February 23, 1838, the council and general assembly of New Jersey, acting on the petition of certain of the inhabitants of the township of South Amboy, passed "an act to set off from the township of South Amboy, in the county of Middlesex, a new township, to be called the township of Monroe," after the President. The new township was defined as "all that part of the township of South Amboy, in the county of Middlesex, that lies west of the Matchaponix and South Rivers." The inhabitants of this tract, 8 miles long and 6 miles wide, were constituted "a body politic and corporate" who "shall be entitled to all the rights, powers, privileges, and advantages, and subject to the same laws, duties and liabilities, as the inhabitants of the other townships in the said county of Middlesex." The poor-house farm was to be owned jointly by the townships of Monroe and of South Amboy in proportion to the tax assessed on the inhabitants residing within the bounds of each.

This is the total extent of official information concerning the formation of Monroe. The history of the steps leading up to the separation has been lost with the old minute books of the two townships.

The causes may be surmised, however, from the subsequent history of Monroe, when the industrial and commercial centers of Cranbury, Spotswood and Jamesburg broke away as soon as they had grown self-sufficient.

South Amboy, on Raritan River and Bay, almost inevitably became industrial and commercial during the country's growth after the Revolution. The town naturally was anxious to improve water communications and the larger land arteries. On the other hand, the southern portion of South Amboy (which was to become Monroe) had remained agricultural. It needed more localized roads that would connect the farms with the larger traffic arteries, the railroad stations and the river landings. The split no doubt was due to the basic economic differences between the needs of an agricultural versus an industrial community. The inhabitants of land-locked farms in Monroe-to-be probably felt that they had too little to say as to how their taxes were to be used.

Another factor was the politically unwieldy size of South Amboy Township, which had included the present South Amboy, Madison Township, Sayreville, Monroe Township, Spotswood, Jamesburg, Helmetta, and parts of Cranbury and East and South Brunswick Townships. It was necessary to split up this huge tract in order to give the inhabitants as much political autonomy as possible.

The new Monroe Township in 1838 had a population of 2,435. There were eight stores, four gristmills, 18 sawmills, a paper mill, an



Monroe Hotel, Half Acre, on Election Day, c. 1885

academy and eight schools. Spotswood was the only village mentioned in Barber and Howe's history, but Jamesburg had just been made a stop on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Jamesburg's name had been successively Ensley's Mills, Gordon's Mills, Mount's Mills and Buckelew's Mills. With the coming of the railroad it had been dubbed West's Turnout because the locomotives turned out at Billy West's Tavern.

Prospect Plains was described by Barber and Howe as "a level tract of land extending from Cranbury Brook to Manalapan Brook." It had a few houses, a distillery and a store, but the full effects of the coming of the railroad were not to appear until about 30 years later, when Prospect Plains' industrial and commercial growth began in earnest.

Matchaponix had a tavern and a sawmill; at Red Tavern a blacksmith shop and wheelwright shop were established in the year the township was formed. Half Acre consisted of a hotel and a few scattered dwellings.

The first town meeting was held in Spotswood "at the house of Jacob Vancleaf (Van Cleef), inn-keeper, on the second Monday of April, 1838." In the absence of the minutes of that first meeting a fairly accurate reconstruction can be made from what is known of the general procedure:

Between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., as prescribed by the legislative act of 1798, the legal voters of the township met at Van Cleef's. Legal voters then were male white persons over 21 years of age, who were citizens of the State and had lived in the township for the six months preceding the town meeting; who paid taxes or were "seized of a freehold" or rented for a one-year term a "tenement of a yearly value of \$5."

The first business, no doubt, was to elect a temporary chairman. This was probably accomplished by a show of hands as at the New England town meetings, and required a plurality. Upon taking the chair, the presiding officer solemnly admonished the assemblage:

That no person shall behave in a disorderly manner or interrupt the person speaking at any town meeting by unnecessary noise or conversation; and if any person shall, after notice from the presiding officer, persist in his disorderly behaviour then it shall be lawful for the presiding officer to direct such disorderly person to withdraw from the meeting, and moreover, such person shall forfeit one dollar for such offense; and such disorderly person, if he refuse or neglect to withdraw, shall, by the direction of the presiding officer, be carried out of the meeting by some of the constables of the said township and put into a place of confinement, where he shall be detained until such meeting shall be ended.

Nominations were then made from the floor and the voting proceeded under the watchful eye of the presiding officer. Elected at the first meeting were: John A. Davison, town clerk; James Buckelew, collector; George A. McDowell, assessor; Thomas Hoffman, Andrew Snowhill and John L. Voorhees, commissioners of appeals; John Baird and Adam Smith chosen freeholders; John Applegate, Peter W. Dey, Aaron Gulick, Thomas Potts and Louis Riggs, members of the township committee. All were elected for one-year terms.

One of the first orders of business was the raising of "such sum of money as the majority shall agree upon to be expended for the repairing or erection of one or more public school houses for the establishment of free schools and their support." The voters were also empowered to "improve their common lands, maintain pounds, raise money for the maintenance and support of the poor, roads and schools." Other tasks were the setting of bounties for the destruction of noxious animals and birds, and the provision of penalties not exceeding \$12 for violators of township regulations.

The business of the first meeting of which there is a record (April 14, 1856) seems to be typical of every meeting thereafter—and probably preceding:

At the annual Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Monroe held at the house of William G. Mount in said township on Monday the Fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and fifty-six the following persons were elected to fill the several offices annexed to their several names. The following resolutions passed and the following sums of money ordered to be raised by assessment and collection for the use of the aforesaid Township.

Then followed the list of persons elected: Robert R. Vandenberg, clerk; Edward Paxton, assessor; Joseph C. Magee, collector; S. M. Vanwickle, judge of elections; Anthony Applegate and William Perrine, freeholders; David M. Perrine and John L. Rue, surveyors of highways; Thomas Ely, George McDowell and Anthony Applegate, commissioners of appeal; Gilbert Mount, James Paxton, James Applegate, Peter Voorhees and John D. Buckelew, township committee; John Day and George H. Snowhill, justices of the peace; R. G. Isham and James Ives, school committee; George Bendy and Peter L. Stryker, constables; Peter Voorhees and Asher Petty, pound keepers.

The first business was the appropriation of \$1,000 for roads and \$1,500 for schools. It was then resolved that the next meeting would be held at the Monroe Hotel. David M. Perrine was awarded the keeping of the poor for one year at \$800. There followed a list of overseers of roads elected in their respective 16 districts, with the amounts apportioned to each district opposite each name.

Five days later, at the meeting in the Monroe Hotel, the bonds and oaths of the various officers were taken, and the money distributed to the overseers. The minutes fail to record what the New Brunswick *Fredonian* reported, that there had been only one ticket and that all the officers had been unanimously elected.

A split soon developed in road district No. 2; two opposing factions in that district had each elected a road overseer and it was put up to the township committee to decide between the two. District No. 2 suggested that the district be divided into two parts, one for each overseer. The committee vetoed this sensible suggestion and decided that Thomas S. Mershon had defeated Charles Abraham. It was not until the following year that the division was effected and Abraham got his own district.

This was only one in a series of minor irritations that contributed to the eventual formation of East Brunswick as a new township. At a meeting held at Spencer's Hotel, Herbertsville (Old Bridge), a group of influential citizens voiced their dissatisfaction with the township regime. Andrew Snowhill, who had helped to form Monroe 20 years earlier, was in the chair. A committee was appointed to formulate plans to erect a new township.

Meanwhile James Buckelew arbitrarily closed a turnpike in district No. 11. When the citizens demanded action the township committee gracefully evaded the issue by referring the matter to the overseer of district No. 11, who was reminded of the law defining the duties of the overseer of roads. When the matter had dragged on for several months without result, public indignation rose to such a pitch that the committee was forced to authorize the overseer to sue. The committee failed, however, to provide the funds for legal expenses, whereupon the citizens raised the necessary \$50.

Two years later, in 1860, the project initiated at the Herbertsville meeting culminated in the formation of East Brunswick Township out of part of Monroe and North Brunswick. Representatives of East Brunswick and Monroe met at Van Cleef's tavern in Spotswood. Among those representing East Brunswick was Garret I. Snediker, one of the men who had led the fight against Buckelew on the turnpike question. It seems certain that the question of roads was behind the formation of the new township. A division of surplus money, the care of poor and taxable property was amicably arranged between the two townships.

At the December meeting of the township committee Buckelew demanded that the former committee be prosecuted "for money illeg-

ally expended by them" in forcing him to open the disputed turnpike. He offered to prosecute the suit himself, bear the expense, and return any profits to the township. He was authorized to proceed.

The township minutes of this period contain some interesting items. Mrs. Van Cleef received \$8 for entertaining the committee; R. Servis was paid \$2.50 for burying a pauper; surveyors received \$1 a day, and two justices of the peace accompanied each surveying party to certify the accuracy of the survey. Vandenberg came in for his share in entertaining the committee, and Abijah Applegate received \$4.50 expenses for going to New Brunswick to settle a \$3 bill with a lawyer.

The Applegates were quite active politically during the township's first 50 years, one or more of that family having been on the township committee. John A. Applegate served for 7 years. Several were commissioners of appeal, three were assessors and two held office as freeholders between them for 17 consecutive years. The versatile Abijah, who served on the committee from 1858 to 1862, also acted



Railroad House, Prospect Plains, c. 1890

as tax collector in 1858-9, as commissioner of appeals in 1860, and as assessor from 1860 to 1866. In 1862 he was chairman of the township committee, and in 1865 he received \$23.51 for services as overseer of road district No. 5.

At a township meeting in 1860 Abijah was "served notice" by his fellow committeemen, "as late tax collector to pay the tax now due in his hands by Nov. 20th or measures would be taken to collect same." At the same meeting he was appointed commissioner of appeals to take the place of George McDowell, who had refused to serve.

To facilitate collection of township taxes, the constable handled unpaid bills on a commission basis. At times the collector and constable withheld tax monies for indefinite periods. So, in 1862, Abijah Applegate, then chairman of the township committee, prosecuted the collector and constable for the offense he himself had committed two years previously.

On April 10, 1862, it was "recorded by order of the committee" that:

On Tuesday the 8th inst. it commenced snowing and continued at intervals until this day, the snow being in various places in the road four to five feet deep and on the level from 12 to 14 inches.

The Civil War

More serious matters than snow and entertainment bills soon faced the township fathers. Lincoln's call for volunteers had been issued. The call was so poorly answered that the inhabitants were forced to pass a resolution to borrow money for a bonus to volunteers. Seventy inhabitants signed the resolution vouching for the payment. The same evening the township committee met and voted an additional bonus of \$50 "to the first 44 residents of the township who would volunteer for service in the U. S. Army between August 23 and September, 1862."

Although the county freeholders authorized a bonus of \$200, Monroe still failed to meet her quota. To avoid a draft the inhabitants unanimously voted still another bonus of \$300 to each volunteer in August, 1863. The township committee refused to endorse this proposition by a vote of three to two. Pressure for a township bonus to aid the families of volunteers forced the matter to a popular vote. On June 8, 1864, a \$200 bounty was approved and the township committee issued notes reading:

Nine months after date the Township of Monroe promises to pay to the order of..... \$200 with interest from date for going to the war or furnishing a substitute.

On July 18, 1864, came the President's call for an additional 500,000 volunteers by September 5. The county made strenuous

efforts to raise the quota without a draft. A committee was sent to Washington to see about the purchase of colored recruits. On August 25 they reported to the freeholders that their inference was that the government wished them to "fill their quotas with men from within their own borders and not with Niggers."

To encourage recruiting the freeholders resolved "that any men voluntarily acting as recruiting agent for the County of Middlesex shall be paid \$25 for each recruit or volunteer obtained by his service." The county bonus was raised to "\$400 to each person who shall volunteer and \$500 to each person who shall procure an acceptable substitute or shall be drafted." The director was authorized to pay \$500 to the townships for each substitute.

By December 31 Monroe's quota was still unfilled. Unwilling to draft its citizens forcibly, the township fathers went into the open market to bid for substitutes. Ezekiel Silvers was appointed to find 20 men. Within a week Ezekiel produced the following bid from a New Brunswick company:

We will furnish volunteers for one year for \$450, for three years \$600, and commence at once excluding all orders until your township is satisfied.

Very Respectfully yours,

H. W. ABBOT & CO.

The following week Silvers reported that he had contracted for 20 men. "Ten to a certainty at \$600 each and probably ten more at \$625 each." The township committee ordered Silvers not to pay a sum exceeding \$600. Silvers received \$100.50 for his patriotic services, and Robert Vandenberg \$25 for representing the township in the deal.

As a further inducement to volunteers a tax of \$10 was levied on each person liable to be drafted. It was hoped that \$2,000 could be raised in order to give each substitute \$50 in cash in addition to the township note and county bond. Many citizens refused to pay this tax. At the beginning of 1865 the township committee decided "that unless one hundred and fifty persons contributed to the ten dollar fund the money be returned."

One of the many incidents that grew out of the competition to procure substitutes is recorded in the minute book. It seems that a certain enterprising would-be soldier by the name of Eugene Letts attempted to substitute for two stay-at-homes, Joseph Davison and Charles Stout. Davison had drawn the bounty money in the name of Letts, but Stout previously had got Letts to sign up as his substitute. The minute book indicates that the decision went to Stout:

This is to certify that I, Joseph Davison, agree to relinquish all my right and claim to said money upon payment of seventy-five dollars to Charles Stout who claims a right of the services of said Letts. And the remainder of the said bonds and notes to be placed at interest for the use of said Letts when he returns, or if he should not return to his mother or legal representatives.

Despite these proofs of the war's unpopularity among the township's inhabitants, many of the old families sent their sons to fight. Sixty-five veterans of the Rebellion rest in local cemeteries. Among them are Applegates, Buckelews, Davisons, Helmes, Mounts, Schenks and Snedekers. The township in 1864 oversubscribed its quota in raising money to "defray the expense of placing the requisite number of men in the field," and 50 per cent of the money was returned to the subscribers. Nineteen years later a Grand Army post was organized by 40 veterans.

Peace brought an end to the hectic scramble to raise bonuses and to recruit men. The township returned to its accustomed business. Roads had been neglected during the war period and it was necessary to appropriate \$1,500 for them in 1865, as against \$177.82 in 1864.

An accident ushered in a minor wave of prosperity when the \$86 found on a man killed on the railroad was divided. The accounting includes \$28 to Arthur Ruding, owner of the Railroad House at Prospect Plains, perhaps for entertaining the coroner's jury; \$18 to the undertaker, \$3.50 to the sexton, \$3 to the doctor, \$3 to Mathias Rue, and \$2.50 to George McDowell, overseer of the poor.

Dogs must have been unusually numerous and active; sheep bills for the year amounted to the remarkably high sum of \$233. Taxpayers' complaints must also have been common, for the commissioners of appeal received \$154 for services.

Political Developments

For 20 years following the close of the war the committee faithfully followed the familiar routine year in and year out. Robert R. Vandenberg continued as township clerk for 34 years, holding that office for a longer period than anyone before or since. During his political career he was also a justice of the peace for three years, and in 1884 and 1885 he served in the State assembly.

In March of 1872 another slice of Monroe was taken to form Cranbury Township. During the next few years there were several important changes in the form of the township government. In 1876 an act made it mandatory to appoint a township treasurer and an

FINANCES

— OF THE —

TOWNSHIP of MONROE,

For the Year ending March 9th, 1876.

George B. Perrine, Esq., Collector in account with said Township:

DR:

To balance of last year's Receipts.....	\$5,881 40
" Amount of Duplicate.....	18,796 59
" " School Money, 1874 and 1875.....	3,724 75
" " " " 1875 and 1876.....	3,769 21
" " Special School Tax Jamesburg District.....	1,169 70
" " " Prospect Plains.....	198 00
" " Interest from R. C. Dey's Note.....	7 00
	\$33,596 65

CR.

SUPPORT OF POOR.

By amount paid Isaac Covert, Overseer's Fees....	50 00
" " Services out of Township.....	9 50
" " Justice's Fees.....	7 00
" " Counsel Fees.....	10 00
" " Transient Poor.....	27 75
" " Paid Estate of Vincent G. Farr, Keeper.....	350 00
" " George F. Morse, Keeper.....	650 00
	\$1,104 25

SCHOOLS.

By amount paid Schools.....	\$5,337 81
" " Special School Tax, Texas District.....	20 00
	\$5,357 81

COMMISSIONERS OF APPEALS.

By amount paid Fees and Expenses.....	33 25
" " Deducted from Taxes.....	294 70
	\$257 95

ROAD EXPENSES.

By amount paid Road Bills.....	\$1,421 36
" " Joseph B. Mount, Overseer District No. 6, for plank.....	4 25
" " Daniel R. Schenck, for plank, Dist. No. 3.....	12 50
" " John D. Boden, " " " 3.....	4 00
" " John J. Perrine, " " " 4.....	4 28
" " Samuel Butcher, " " " 8.....	9 80
" " Isaac Covert, " " " 5.....	12 80
" " James Hill, " " " 13.....	28 50
" " Wm. L. Einmons, notifying Freeholders.....	2 00
" " Andrew McDowell, removing ice.....	6 25
	\$1,505 74

OFFICERS' FEES.

By am't paid R. R. Vandenburg, Clerk Town Meeting.....	\$6 00
" " R. C. Dey, Judge Town Meeting.....	4 00
" " Daniel McVoorhees, Assessor's Fees.....	137 24
" " George B. Perrine, Collector's Fees.....	161 84
" " Committee Fees.....	80 00
" " R. R. Vandenburg, Clerk Fees.....	50 00
	\$439 08

SUNDRY BILLS.

By amount paid Charles H. Appleget, for Tickets....	\$1 00
" " E. A. Thompson, Officers Town Meeting.....	12 25
" " Entertainment Officers for 1874-5.....	171 50
" " For Guide Posts.....	225 00
" " Britton Mount, for keeping tramps, 1874.....	3 75
" " Daniel McVoorhees, putting up dog list.....	5 00
" " William Redmond, for Reports.....	3 00
" " Babcock & Johnson, printing Reports.....	17 60
" " Thomas B. Appleget, printing cards and notices for Collector.....	9 50
" " For support of Mary Welch's child.....	36 00
" " V. W. Mount, entered in Officers of Election.....	24 00
" " Sheep Damage of 1875.....	71 50
" " R. R. Vandenburg, recording Births, Marriages and Deaths.....	4 15
" " Stationery, Affidavits, &c.....	7 00
" " Allowance on Tax Warrants of 1873-4.....	67 04
" " " " 1875.....	50 35
" " Wm. H. Hoffman, for scraper, Dist. No. 3.....	8 00
" " Nelson Thompson, going to New-Brunswick twice.....	6 00
" " paid Counsel Fees.....	5 00
" " R. R. Vandenburg, for drawing Bonds and Certificates.....	4 00
	\$724 24

GENERAL STATEMENT.

By amount paid County Collector, Balance.....	\$5,500 00
" " " " Jan. 4, 1876.....	3,000 00
" " " " Jan. 31, 1876.....	5,000 00
" " " " March 8, 1876.....	3,493 73
" " For support of Poor.....	1,104 25
" " Schools.....	5,357 81
" " Commissioners of Appeals.....	257 95
" " Road Expenses.....	1,505 74
" " Officers' Fees.....	439 08
" " Sundry Bills.....	724 24
	\$26,284 80
Balance in hands of Collector.....	7,211 85
	\$33,596 65

NELSON THOMPSON,
WILLIAM REDMOND,
ELIAS D. APPLEGET,
WILLIAM H. CLAYTON,
JOHN E. RUE,
Town Committee.

Attest: ROBERT R. VANDENBURG, Clerk of Township.

All persons having bills to present before the Committee, will please bring them in Tuesday and Wednesday previous to Town Meeting, or they will be laid over until next Spring.

Township Financial Statement, 1876

inspector of elections. Charles G. Hoffman became the township's first treasurer, and Thomas E. Perrine and Forman Hoffman were the first inspectors of elections.

Seven years later another act made the formation of boards of health mandatory, allowing the township committee to act as the board of health. On May 12, 1883, Monroe's health board was organized with P. F. Davison as chairman and E. Applegate as secretary. The duties of the board included the keeping of vital statistics,

the abatement of nuisances, and the supervision of sanitary arrangements. No doubt the State law creating the boards was the result of severe epidemics that had ravaged New Jersey in preceding years. In 1872, for example, an epidemic of dysentery appeared at Half Acre and people "died like sheep"; in 1883 pneumonia and diphtheria were prevalent.

Judging from letters to the local press, the condition of the roads was something less than satisfactory. One writer complains that \$1,000 a year was raised for roads, "but what becomes of it? The roads are in a dreadful condition." Another waxes sarcastic in the *Cranbury Press* of August 26, 1887. "Henslewood is the name of the overseer of the road from Manalapan to Hoffman's Station. This name applies well to the road—wood and brush have grown up in such abundance as to make it an exceedingly unpleasant thoroughfare."

In 1886 came the big blow. "Was it a Cyclone?" asks the *Jamesburg Record* of November 20, 1886. The answer, judging by the account, is emphatically, Yes. Things started quite mildly. At midnight a gentle rain began falling and a balmy south wind set in. But by morning the elements had worked up to a crescendo of howling wind and torrential rain. The first warning the inhabitants of Jamesburg had that this was no ordinary storm was a tremendous crash when the newly erected frame of the German Baptist Church collapsed. By 10 a. m. Jamesburg thought it was at the bottom of Niagara Falls:

Almost without warning the water fell in sheets and a terrific wind set in. For half an hour the rain fell with the noise of a mighty cataract and there were also flashes of lightning and some thunder. It was impossible at times to see anything beyond your window, so great was the volume of water. In fact some of our people thought a water spout was about to inundate the town. Small buildings flew around like tops, trees fell with a great crash, houses were creaking and trembling, and the tightest of the latter could not keep out the rain, so furious were its onslaughts. Through door, windows and weather-boards it poured and many a housekeeper was at her wits end to find enough pails and cloths.

When the storm was over the Jamesburgites cautiously ventured outdoors to count noses and take stock. They found that their town had been altered in several particulars:

The Baptist Church was flat as a pancake. The horse sheds and carriage house of F. L. Buckalew were completely destroyed;

the shattered timber sailed over in front of Mr. Fred Nodocker's fence, one hundred feet away and over other buildings. The gust then burst in Mr. Nodocker's hall door, breaking off an iron bolt, the hall soon filling with water.

When he came outdoors, Nodocker found the house had moved an inch on the foundation on one side, and was six inches out of

line on the other side. "This caused the shelves and sheathing in the store to give way and the sudden jar sent the contents flying to the floor." The shirt factory of Downs and Finch was another victim; the roof of the drying room was lifted a foot or more and allowed to drop again with a resounding crash that sent all hands scurrying for the stairs "down which they fell promiscuously." The main factory was flooded, and "No. 10 also shows the ruthless hand of the storm king, and having bent its head to the blast seems unable to rise to its former erect attitude."

Due to the efforts of such men as James Buckalew and his sons, Jamesburg had become a thriving industrial town and railroad center. By 1887 its interests had diverged so sharply from those of agricultural Monroe that a movement began to establish a commission form of government which would give the community control of its own road monies. The campaign gained so many adherents that within a few weeks the separation was voted by a substantial majority. Of the 250 voters within the borough limits, 167 cast ballots; 151 were for a borough commission. Said the *Jamesburg Record* of March 19, 1887:

Almost without being able to trace the origin of the movement we are an incorporated town. Two months ago the majority of our people would have scoffed at the possibility of such a thing being carried by a popular vote. Two weeks ago there were many objectors to the movement but a publication and full discussion of the act under which we were to organize resulted in the conversion of many. The public meeting of Monday night was a recognition of the people's rights in the matter which fully decided objectors in favor of incorporation.

The following year one-third of the township's road appropriation of \$1,500 was reserved for Jamesburg. The newly formed borough commission wished to discuss the matter. Accordingly, the Monroe committee was invited to sit in joint session with the Jamesburg body. But Monroe stood on its dignity; it was not accepting invitations from upstart youngsters. Its reply was designed to put Jamesburg in its place:

Yours of the 17th received and laid before the Committee who refused any action in the matter and ordered me to reply to you that they sit for the purpose of transacting the business of the Township, that if you have any grievances you must come before them.

Yours respectfully,
C. H. EDWARDS, CLERK.

The minute book for the ensuing years is spread with complaints from the new borough concerning its pro rata share of the road taxes, and assessments on its property. The *Jamesburg Record* summed up grievances as follows:

Instead of having a snug sum to our credit we are in debt in round figures for \$400. The principal leaks are Committee's fees and entertainment, snow bills, poor account, and Commissioners of Appeal. The snow bill is the most iniquitous thing, however, \$500 being paid out—most of it we wager, being paid for labor used in digging out pigs, cows, etc. and making paths to the store for groceries. The Township Committee have also fed and drank at the expense of the township as shown by their bill of \$23.75. The Commissioners of Appeals also follow the evil example by charging for their meals, etc., \$9.75.

The snow bill to which Jamesburg sneeringly referred covered the historic blizzard of March 1888. The storm, which occurred on Monroe's election day, is enshrined in the minutes book in these words:

It was with the greatest difficulty that the officers of the Board of Elections got to the place of election. Only two of the board of the first poll reached the Monroe Hotel. . . . The railroads were blocked for four days. The snow drifted in the Gravel Hill deep cut to a depth of 16 feet.

Another grievance aired by the *Record* was the custom of underestimating taxable values in the township:

There are men tampering in our township affairs who have been false to every trust. Are such worthies, safe men to put in office to continue their vicious practices? What have our committee and assessor to say regarding farms worth \$20,000 and \$30,000, now assessed at \$3,000 and \$5,000? Underestimating with the few, increases the burden of the many. Such rascally work should cease. Turn the rascals out!

It was actually a case of the kettle calling the pot black, for only a few months previously the citizens of Jamesburg had forced a substantial reduction in the valuations of their properties. When the township assessors had attempted to tax Jamesburg property at its true value the cry was heard that those values had been raised illegally. Payment on the basis of the assessments was refused. The row continued for several weeks until the Commissioners of Appeal were compelled "to take off all rises of those who appeared and claimed them off."

In 1893 the financial panic finished what recalcitrant taxpayers had started. The township was forced by adverse economic conditions to reduce the assessment by \$170,580.

Snow bills again took the limelight in 1895. When the newly elected township committee met at the Monroe Hotel in Half Acre to organize the government, they did so under the critical eyes of a large gathering of grim-faced citizens. The outraged taxpayers were interested chiefly in the appropriations for the 21 road districts and "in the payment of the much discussed and scandalously

large snow bill." It appears that their suspicion had been aroused by the disproportionate size of the bills, totaling \$656.52, in contrast to the meager snowfall of that year. "This year's blizzard," the *Record* pointed out, "brought only six inches of snow and many roads were absolutely bare while the drifts were nothing in comparison with those of '88 when it cost only \$250 to open roads. If the snow bill innovation is allowed to get a foothold on such an extravagant basis, we shall never be able to check it."

The minute book itself is singularly silent concerning the public protest; not even the amount of the bill is mentioned. It states simply that "all snow bills were ordered on the table, but subsequently ordered paid. Clerk drew vouchers for same and turned them over to the collector."

In 1896 the sources of irritation between the township and Jamesburg were removed when Jamesburg became a completely independent borough. The seven members of the old borough commission reorganized on April 27 as the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg. Frank Jennings, president of the former commission, became mayor; and F. L. Buckelew, Charles Cruger, Patrick Connerty, C. M. Davison, A. Kieugle and Joseph C. Magee became councilmen. E. S. Hammell was unanimously elected borough clerk.

After a short period of bickering with the township over financial and school matters, Jamesburg started off on its own career. In March, 1898, it was pointing to its first telephone pay-stations as evidence of progress. One was at Cruger's hotel, the other at C. M. Davison's store. For 15c Jamesburg could talk for 5 minutes to New Brunswick, and for 45c to Newark. The following month the Bell Telephone Company was buying right of way through the township for extending service to the farms.

The Spanish-American war caused none of the excitement that had attended the securing of volunteers and substitutes during the Civil War. The township's first concern was to send food and clothing to starving Cuban children. Anna Miller, teacher in the Monroe school district, was appointed by County Superintendent Willis to take charge of this work. Later some of the township's sons joined the forces in Cuba. Among those who served were Robert Clark, Frank W. Emens, William S. Emmons, John Herbert, William A. James and Charles Swanson.

As the century drew to a close, Monroe completed the network of roads that had been designed when the township was formed in

1838. The *Record* took advantage of this occasion to comment on the work of Monroe's freeholder, C. A. Stults:

He (Stults) is Chairman of the Road Committee, a very important position, and he has succeeded in getting an appropriation for a gravel road to be built under the County Road Act, extending from Stults' Corner, through Prospect Plains to Half Acre, to Jamesburg coming past the Convention Woods hill opposite Davison's lumber yard. This will be a fine thing for our section and complete a chain of fine roads all the way from Matawan and the shore, via Old Bridge, Spotswood, Helmetta and Jamesburg, to Cranbury.

The item explained that the county act allowed construction of gravel roads instead of the more costly stone ones, the county paying the entire bill. "We hope," the *Record* suggests with an eye to local prosperity, "some of our local contractors may be able to secure the contract for the road from Stults' Corner to Jamesburg."

In the summer of 1899 all Monroe took a day off from road building, harvesting, canning, and all homely tasks to go picnicking. The *Jamesburg Record's* account of the event is worth preserving:

August 12, 1899. Wednesday was a good day for picnics—clear, cool and pleasant. There were two harvest homes, one at Manalapan and the other at Dutch Neck. The Jamesburg Methodist picnic was also held on that day. But in spite of these and other attractions elsewhere, an unusually happy company gathered in the woods, near Monroe school house, for their annual picnic. Some were there early in the morning, by noon a large number had gathered, and at 3 p. m. everybody was in good humor and wore a pleasant smile. Each one was glad the others were there and everything to make them feel at home. With their usual forethought the officers of the Sabbath School had provided an organ and a supply of singing books, and at intervals during the day the people joined in making the woods ring with the good old Gospel hymns. And then there were games—horseshoe, and other pleasures were indulged in for pastime. Indeed, the clink of horseshoe was to be heard all day. Some of the ladies proved themselves experts in wielding the horseshoe.

And then the dinner—well, it was a Monroe dinner, and that means "much" in every way. There was chicken, there was pie, and there were cakes galore, to say nothing of the cream and the bewitching coffee. All day long could be heard what every visitor to Monroe is familiar with, "Do take some more!" . . . by nightfall some of the visitors' smiles had changed to groans. They were healthy groans, however, groans of gratitude and promise to be present next year at the annual feast of the Sunday School.

The publicity given to Monroe cooking proved a boomerang a month later; two sceptics came to Prospect Plains, apparently to test the reliability of the public prints. They broke into the home of James Hoffman, station agent, at 1:30 p. m., just a little late for dinner. "The only damage known to have been done was to the provisions to which they helped themselves liberally, leaving a goodly assortment of Mrs. Hoffman's choice canned fruits, found in the cellar, on the table."

The Twentieth Century

The 20th century opened with a crusade to heckle the railroad company into improving the Prospect Plains Station. The *Record* announced with broad sarcasm:

Walter B. Antrim, Train Master of the Amboy Division, P. R. R., spent a few hours in our village . . . viewing the beautiful (?) accommodations at our depot for the travelling public. The handsome chairs and seats . . . deserved his especial recognition . . . The present furniture, an old chair, a settee (dilapidated as it is), the gift of Natty Cox some years ago, indicates that the once powerful Amboy Division has been side-tracked and lost to view . . .

It took four years for this barb to penetrate the consciousness of the railroad officials. The *Record* had to wait until 1904 before it could report the remodeling of the Prospect Plains station.

Meanwhile, something much more important than dowdy railroad stations occupied Monroe. In 1900 a new State law concerning the tenure of township officials was passed. The incumbents—Samuel H. Butcher, Willard Forman and Charles Morse—“like Barkis” were all willing to succeed themselves, “. . . but, of course, they will all, like the rest of public men, be compelled to stand up and answer for their acts done or left undone.” The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the committee was a good one and deserved re-election. But “about the office of Freeholder there seems little to say. It has been the custom of late to give each Freeholder two terms and this courtesy will be extended to Freeholder C. A. Stults.”

The law went into effect in the middle of March and provided for the election of committeemen on staggered terms. At this first election under the new law, one member was to be elected for a term of one year, one for two years, and one for three years. At each succeeding election one member was to be elected for a term of three years. The new act also increased the powers of the committee, making it “the same as an ordinary City Council.”

On March 17 the *Record* reported that the election had been a hot contest.

There was no contest on freeholder, but a combination had planned to do Assessor C. G. Hoffman who had held office for 15 years. Several efforts had previously been made to do Charley and very few thought it would result in anything different from the former trial but the fight this time was to a finish. An old campaigner and skillful as he is, Charley at last got a knockout. His opponent was R. R. Vandenberg, the nephew of the old and famous R. R. Vandenberg who formerly was township clerk for 25 years as well as Assemblyman, etc.

Other successful candidates were committeeman Samuel F. Butcher and Commissioner of Appeal Enos A. Mount.

The first committee of the new century was immediately beset with 20th century problems. Representatives of the Midland Telegraph and Telephone Company appeared at the meeting of April 6, 1900, for a conference regarding the erection of poles and wires through the township. A week later the necessary ordinance was passed, and Monroe's rural landscape was soon lined with telegraph poles.

Two years later, however, the poles were leveled over night by a winter storm, "one of the most disastrous ever known in this section," the *Record* of March 1, 1902, stated.

Nearly all the shade trees are ruined. The damage to the peach and pear trees is simply enormous . . . Within a distance of two miles there are over 100 broken telephone poles and the wires spread over the roads and fields . . . The blizzard of '88 did not compare with this storm and its damaging effects will be felt for many years hence.

In 1907 the committee called a special meeting to confer with a representative of the Hudson and Middlesex Telephone and Telegraph Company, which wanted to erect poles and wires on the road between Hightstown and Freehold. All the property owners, the company pointed out, were willing, except "a Mr. Mount which had a long row of Locust trees down said road and did not want them damaged. The representative said that he would erect poles along said trees with a side arm for the wires so they wouldn't come in contact with the trees." With this promise, the committee agreed to let the company erect poles and run their line "down the stone road and signed an agreement to that effect."

Amid the deliberations made necessary by the onset of the technological 20th century, one relapse to a past age must be recorded. Stanley Denback erected gates across a public road near Jamesburg. When this unsocial act was brought to the attention of the committee, the clerk was authorized to write a stiff note to Mr. Denback:

Prospect Plains
August 20, 1907

Mr. Stanley Denback
Dear Sir:

You are here notified by the committee of the Township of Monroe to take down Gates or any other obstruction to the public road leading from Catholic Cemetery to the Cranberry Bogs.

Hoping you will attend to same to save further action.

Chairman of Committee, CHARLES A. MORSE,
C. W. HOAGLAND, Township Clerk.

Apparently Mr. Denback was tenacious, for the following year the identical complaint was made again. In the end he was persuaded to remove the offending gates.

In March of 1908, "without any show of ceremony further than the gathering in the powerhouse by citizens and businessmen," the Jamesburg Electric Light, Water and Power Company turned on current to light the town. At the same time it was promised that the installation of a water supply system in Jamesburg was not far off. Two months later the township residents along the Jamesburg-Englishtown road petitioned the township committee for electric lights. It was not until September, however, that the committee passed an ordinance permitting the Jamesburg company to erect and maintain poles and wires on certain roads, and set restrictions protecting property owners along the route. The ordinance concluded with:

The Jamesburg Light & Water Company are to furnish current free of charge during the life of this franchise for four (4) 24 candle power Street lamps to be located along said lines where directed by the Township Committee provided that the Township shall arrange for turning off said lamps during the day time.

During the next decade the committee was engaged with various utilities companies and passed ordinances which allowed telephone, electric light and telegraph service to be extended. In 1916, during the infantile paralysis epidemic, the board of health ordered the schools kept closed until the disease had abated.

Upon America's entry into the World War, Monroe responded heartily. Many local men joined the fighting forces; Liberty Bond issues were oversubscribed; and men and women worked side by side in the fields to produce hay, grain and food for the forces overseas. The demand for food and produce brought prosperity to the township.

The post-war agitation for prohibition created considerable disturbance. The No License League petitioned for a special election to decide on the sale of intoxicants. The League's gratification over its victory on June 11, 1919, was somewhat dampened when the assessor was authorized to raise an additional \$1,200 to cover the cost of the election and the loss of revenue from liquor licenses. When his annual salary as assessor was fixed at \$300, Abijah Applegate promptly resigned, saying there was too much work for so little money.

In 1921 the Morse cellar, which contained some fine pre-prohibition liquor, was the object of an attempted invasion by hijackers.

A guard was requested from the township committee, which refused, saying that soon everybody having a quart of whiskey in the house would also demand protection. The appeal was carried to the county prosecutor's office, which notified the committee that protection would have to be furnished. A man was hired at \$4 a night to stand guard from 9 p. m. to 5:30 a. m. "and to continue as long as committee deems necessary." The committee "deemed" the danger past one month later.

During 1923 the collection records and books were reconstructed to include the lots in various real-estate developments. Many of these lots had been sold by fly-by-night companies, and the unwary purchasers of swamp and timberland had never taken formal possession. They were billed for taxes which in most cases were never paid. The township then took possession of these lots and resold many of them to secure the tax money due. Its income was thus increased by several thousand dollars.

Roads, too, at this time, were considerably improved. The change in farming procedure is shown by the fact that the township had to invest \$3,160.50 in a power road machine because it was unable to secure teams for road-maintenance work.

In 1929 the township obtained an official town hall when the abandoned one-room school at Prospect Plains was turned over to the committee. The old building was reshungled, painted and repaired from the balance in the fire protection fund. The days of meeting in hotel rooms, paying entertainment bills, suffering indigestion, or waiting upon the convenience of a vacant schoolroom or meeting house were over. For now, when the committee has an all-day session, the lunch recess sees bridge tables set up, and good home-cooked victuals unloaded from bulging lunch boxes.

The fire protection fund is an annual appropriation of \$400 from which fire companies of nearby communities are paid, at the rate of \$25 a fire, to fight Monroe's blazes. This is cheaper and more efficient than to have a separate department, since it would be difficult for one volunteer company to cover 43 square miles of scattered farms. At present, the fire companies in Jamesburg, Hightstown, Cranbury, Spotswood and Englishtown afford adequate protection.

The repeal of prohibition in 1933 brought the problem of organizing and licensing the liquor trade and abolishing illicit stills. In this case, the customary spate of ordinances, fines, curfew laws and zoning provisions did not prove as efficacious as in the past.

It was found necessary to organize a police department to help deal with the problem.

The township elections of 1937 were fought along economic and social lines. Wilbur C. Box ran for committeeman on the Democratic ticket, which had not had a successful candidate in three decades. His platform included a general reduction of township expenditures, taking all able-bodied persons off direct relief and placing them on work relief, and a more constructive program of WPA work. Mr. Box defeated the Republican incumbent, John H. Fortsch, and Monroe was considerably surprised, on the day after election, to find a Democrat on the township committee.

Aside from this political shift and its economic implications, 1938 finds Monroe but little changed to the casual eye, in spite of 20th century physical comforts and mechanical improvements. Farming is still the principal industry, and among the township's farmers survive the same family names encountered 100 years ago—Dey, Vandenberg, Jamieson, Davison, Mount, Johnston, Perrine and many others equally well-known. Many of the old family homesteads still stand—with additions and improvements. Most of Monroe's farmhouses look neat and prosperous. They still gleam with the paint and improvements which high potato prices in 1936 made possible; but now they may have to wait another five years for further attention, for potato prices have tended to follow a cycle of about seven years.

The network of roads which crisscrosses the township evidences 100 years of continuous attention. The major portion of the 170 miles of township roads is improved. Road-maintenance equipment has been modernized and motorized during the past 15 years, and now power graders, trucks and motor-driven snow plows do the work previously performed by hired teams of horses.

Most of the township has electric and phone service. Water is obtained through privately owned wells and household pumping systems. The township is served by two bus lines and the two railroads that join in Jamesburg, but it still relies largely on its own automobiles for travel. The educational plant has been completely modernized with the building of two large brick school houses and the establishment of bus transportation for the students.

The township government in 1939 consists of the following officials: John D. Butcher, chairman of the township committee; Walter Chamberlin, Wilbur C. Box, committeemen; Fred A. Clayton, clerk; Edward Johnson, assessor; R. Maitland Vandenberg, collector; Har-

vey H. Dey, treasurer; Walter L. Harris, recorder; Wilton T. Applegate, counsel; and Elva M. O'Keefe, overseer of the poor.

Police Department

Law enforcement in the early days was in the hands of constables who had both civil and police powers. Theirs was a tranquil task, confined mostly to serving legal papers and collecting back taxes. Their names and activities have been lost with the early minute book. The first constables of whom there is any record are George Bendy and Peter L. Stryker, who appear in the list of township officials of April 14, 1856.

In general, the constables seem to have carried out their duties satisfactorily. In 1861, however, the collector and the constable were apparently taking their time in turning over tax collections. Finally, the committee issued an ultimatum. Whereupon, according to the minutes of August 12, the collector "agreed to settle the liability without further trouble in a few weeks." Apparently the collector failed to obtain the cooperation of the constable, who remained obdurate. The clerk was ordered, therefore, to prosecute the constable's bond "forthwith."

The lawsuit dragged through the county courts and it was not until two years later that the minute book announced that "judgment was obtained against the bond and sureties of William V. Mount which the court this day assessed the amount due to township at \$609 with interest from May 1, 1861, until paid."

In 1860 the citizens petitioned for a third constable; but the committee refused. Two years later, however, there were three constables: Joseph N. Reed, Thomas Tracy and James N. Eversham. Apparently this was a temporary arrangement, for the records for the next eight years indicate that there were again only two.

In 1870 the force was again increased to three, when David Mount, Major Hooper and Thomas Keyes served. The following year, in addition to Mount and Hooper, Alexander Laird and Isaac R. Hutchinson were appointed constables.

Two years later the number was again reduced to two until 1881, when a new system provided for staggered terms:

One year, Vandoren Mount.

Two years, Peter Dey.

Three years, Robert M. Vandenberg.



Police Headquarters

Later the number of constables varied between one and five. In 1896 police affairs were in the exclusive control of the Davison family; the constable force consisted of Paul Davison, William I. C. Davison and W. H. Davison.

With the 20th century, Monroe Township suffered a bold type of banditry, peculiar to an agricultural community, called crop thievery. Trucks would pull into the barns at night and carry off whole loads of produce. A flagrant instance of this wholesale larceny occurred on the farm of Lester Heege. Heege surprised a gang at work in his barn in broad daylight. His single-handed defense resulted only in threats from the thieves to run him down unless he got out of their way. Although he could not save his produce, the outraged farmer had enough presence of mind to note the license number of the truck, which enabled the police to trace the thieves to Rahway and Jersey City, where they were arrested.

The repeal of prohibition brought a deluge of applications for permission to operate taverns and saloons. Various illicit stills scattered throughout the countryside added to the burden of enforcing the law and maintaining the peace in the legal taverns.

To meet the new situation, the township committee adopted an informal plan to augment the inadequate constable system. In February, 1934, Philip C. Magrino, who had had police training and experience on the police force of Orange, N. J., was appointed chief of police for a one-year trial. Magrino's salary was paid by the various taverns. To complete the force, Hilman Dancer and Anthony Belluscio were designated assistant constables. The following month Belluscio was likewise named a police officer.

The trial police department went to work with a will, as may be judged from a report in the *Perth Amboy News* of June 2, 1934:

Monroe Township police continued their cleanup on alleged illegal liquor dispensaries by raiding the farm of Stanley Sadowski, near Pergola Avenue, and seizing 40 quarts of home brew and a ten-gallon still.

The diversity of the police department's activities is indicated by this item in the same issue of the *News*:

Chief of Police Philip Magrino of Monroe Township turned cowboy the other day after one of the farmers in the township reported that two cows had mysteriously disappeared. After riding the back roads for a considerable time, the chief sighted the two cows upon a hill and left his car and gave chase. Using a rope as a lariat he finally lassoed the cows. The cows were the property of John Schuster, near Hoffman's Station.

The new police force took every means to impress its dignity on the citizens. The day of the country constable was past — a cop in Monroe was the same as a cop in New York or New Brunswick.

When the trial period had expired, the township committee, on March 16, 1935, provided for a permanent police department. The ordinance specified a personnel of two patrolmen "known as Chief and Assistant Chief." Magrino continued as chief with Belluscio as assistant. Their salaries for 1935 were fixed at \$25 a month, which has since been increased to \$50. The men's earnings are augmented somewhat from other sources. Magrino, for example, serves as supervisor of all the township's WPA projects, while Belluscio is also a constable and truant officer.

The problem of policing and patrolling approximately 43 square miles of territory of scattered farmhouses and small communities was a difficult one for two men to work out. The record for 1935 consisted of raids on 14 stills in addition to routine arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct and summonses for traffic law violations. The year was concluded with a grand Christmas party given by the police department to 40 needy township children who were cideder and dined, and presented with gifts.

The following year four special officers were added to the department: John Piorkowski, Alex Pukatch, Herman Shufelt and

William Walters. The extra men were needed because of the increased number of taverns attracting crowds of week-end merry-makers. Wages for the special officers' week-end vigil were paid by the tavernkeepers.

When two new brick schools were completed in 1936, the department adopted as headquarters an abandoned one-room frame schoolhouse on the Englishown-Jamesburg road. Magrino and Belluscio remodeled the interior. The Sunday School organ was altered to serve as judge's bench, set on a dais constructed of vat staves seized in still raids. A cell was constructed, cots installed, and a second-hand barred door that had once served in a New York bank was purchased from a Jersey City junk dealer for \$7.50. The remainder of the building was furnished by the townspeople, who supplied seats for the courtroom, a police sign, swivel chairs, a radio and other items.

The building was dedicated in August in the presence of many local and county dignitaries. The solemnity of the occasion was enlivened by the imprisonment of Mrs. Paul Versazi; the cell door slammed behind her while she was inspecting the accommodations for prisoners. "After a short breathing spell a call was sent for Chief of Police Philip C. Magrino and Assistant Chief Belluscio. As neither had a key in their possession, it was necessary for the lady in waiting to make the best of the situation," reported the *Middlesex Recorder*. This she did by rendering the *Prisoner's Song* and other numbers for one and one-half hours until Belluscio had completed the round-trip to his home for the key.

The celebration was hardly concluded when the entire police department was scouring the township for occupants for the brand-new jail. With the week-end revelry in the local taverns in full swing, there was no difficulty in rounding up customers for the "Hotel de Gink."

The department's equipment was completed during 1937 with the acquisition of a combination Chevrolet patrol car and ambulance. Chief Magrino donated his personal automobile to be used as a trade-in on the new ambulance. Through the generosity of the prosecutor and chief of police of Monmouth County, the Monroe police department was equipped with a police radio connected with the Monmouth system. The Monroe police can now flash messages from headquarters to the patrol car within three minutes.

During 1937 the police department made the headlines when Chief Magrino and Recorder Harris met at a "Harmony Dinner"

and exchanged punches. The two men were suspended for three months, but within a few days were reinstated on probation. The dispute followed a previous squabble in which there were charges against Magrino of atrocious assault and battery, to which the chief had replied that he was merely performing his duty.

In 1938, a group of inhabitants petitioned for abolition of the police department in order to decrease taxes. Immediately a counter-petition was circulated in defense of the department. A public hearing was held, but no decision reached. At its next meeting the township committee voted to retain the police department.

Post Office

Since 1859 the general store at Prospect Plains has housed the post office, and the store proprietors have invariably been the postmasters. Derrick G. Davison, the first postmaster, held the position for 19 years, with a six-year interim while Joseph A. Hoffman served from 1874 to 1880. The office flourished under John H. Mount, appointed in 1884, for the *Jamesburg Record* reported in 1891 that all 80 boxes were rented.

Rural free delivery began in 1901 when Route No. 3 was laid out from Cranbury. It did not prove successful, for the farmers on the route preferred to call for their mail at Prospect Plains rather than have it delivered a day later. Abijah Applegate, postmaster at the time, attempted unsuccessfully to have Prospect Plains made the central office; but for his incumbency of 13 years, Applegate had to be content to have folks call for their mail. He was succeeded by his wife, Mary S. Applegate.

In August, 1902, two rural routes were established from Jamesburg. Howard D. Applegate, who was appointed to the route which covered part of Monroe Township and lapped over into East Brunswick, recalls that the other was known as the "Hoodoo route." The first carrier left his wife and ran off with the daughter of one of the farmers he served. The second man got so interested in automobiles, particularly the Metz chain drive for which he became agent, that he went insane on the subject and had to be committed to an asylum. The third carrier, it is said, exchanged wives with a neighbor. A year later he committed suicide.

Meanwhile, Howard Applegate was driving the little white wagon with the sliding doors over the rutted country roads, bringing the



Post Office and General Store, Prospect Plains

mail to the 140 families on his route. The motto on the facade of the New York post office must have been composed in his honor, for nothing could stop him from "the completion of (his) appointed rounds." When the little wagon was blown over and disabled during one of Monroe's March gales, he shouldered the mail sack and completed the circuit on horseback; when the snow made the roads impassable, he trudged the 15 miles on foot, taking 12 hours to do it; when infrequent illness prevented personal attention a hastily drafted son or son-in-law carried on temporarily. For many years a bicycle was his only mode of transportation; and for much of the time that he had a wagon at his disposal, he drove a blind horse. The animal got to know the route so well that Applegate simply hung the reins over the dashboard, confident that the wagon would stop within arm's reach of each box. For the last 14 years, Applegate used an automobile; he claims to have worn out seven horses and nine cars in his 32 years as a rural mail carrier. Today, the

rural delivery which took two men eight hours each by horse and wagon, is done in four by one man in an automobile.

Through the efforts of lawyer A. S. Applegate and United States Senator John R. McPherson, Applegarth obtained a post office in 1888, with Harrison Rogers as postmaster. On March 31, 1891, the Applegarth office was discontinued and mail for that locality went to Hightstown. The post office was reinstated in June, 1899, through the efforts of Congressman B. F. Howell. Enos A. Mount, proprietor of the Applegarth general store and only merchant in the district, was appointed postmaster June 20, 1899. The office was again discontinued on January 15, 1907, and the mail delivered from Cranbury by the present rural route.

Except for the office at Prospect Plains, Monroe Township is now served only by rural routes from Hightstown, Englishtown, Cranbury and Jamesburg.

The Poor and Relief

Monroe, exclusively an agricultural community and always fairly prosperous, has been spared the problems of technological unemployment which beset industrial areas during the 1920's. During the entire decade of the 1920's only 15 aged persons and two families requested aid from the township. The indigent aged are boarded with families for a small fee. In the 19th century, a contract system which called for sealed bids on caring for the poor was in use.

Since the appointment of Elva M. O'Keefe as overseer of the poor in 1922, Monroe has benefited by modern methods of social work. Mrs. O'Keefe has been an investigator for the United Hebrew Charities of New York, head matron at the Jewish Protectory at Hawthorne, N. Y., and a matron at the New Jersey State Home for Boys. In practice, her job has gone far beyond the narrow limits of the overseer's duties, which include care of the needy, the indigent aged, and administration of the mothers' pension, for she also takes an interest in domestic relations, delinquency, and other social manifestations of poverty.

When the emergency arising from the present depression became acute at the beginning of this decade, Mrs. O'Keefe had the professional background and the intimate knowledge of local conditions to organize relief effectively. She served as supervisor of relief at no salary until 1938, when \$50 a month and mileage was added to the overseer's annual salary of \$100.

At present there are 48 families (about 192 persons) on direct relief, receiving food, clothing, shelter and medical attention, but no cash. The \$1,696.96 needed in 1937 was supplied jointly by the State and by the township which contributed \$69 a month. The township attempts to shift all able-bodied persons on relief to WPA work.

When, late in 1937, aliens were discharged by the WPA, the township assumed the responsibility of caring for them. "They've been living among us for many years," Elva O'Keefe explains, "and if they haven't become citizens it's our fault, not theirs; we should have made some effort to assimilate them and teach them American ways and citizenship." There are now 11 such aliens (supporting 49 persons) working on the roads at the rate of 40c an hour. Work is given in proportion to the family's needs: a worker with three in the family is given three days' work at \$3.20 a day. The overseer of the poor ekes out this small wage with medical aid and some contributions toward food and shelter.

The WPA work relief program is in charge of Police Chief Philip Magrino. Eighty men (who support about 240 persons) are dependent upon the \$60.50 a month which they earn by ditching and grading the township's roads. Employment on the WPA projects reached its height in 1934 with 104 workers.

During 1937, \$1,500 was spent of the \$2,000 appropriated. Two families, 18 transients and two aged persons were cared for; and there were four commitments to the State insane asylum at \$10.50 per commitment (doctor's and affidavit fees). This was an unusually high incidence of insanity, as the average is one commitment a year. Medical aid came to about \$10 a month..

This relief set-up has brought with it a characteristic institution: twice each month the men who work on the roads and the persons entitled to direct relief, gather at the town hall to receive their checks and food orders. There is a tense air of expectancy in the dim, smoke-filled little auditorium. The workers sit patiently on the chairs and benches ranged along the four walls. Blue denim mingles with the faded khaki of old army overcoats; occasional Sunday finery relieves the monotony of work clothes. Slavic and Latin faces side by side with dusky Negro and long, lean Anglo-Saxon are turned attentively in one direction.

All eyes and ears are focused upon the township officials seated around a long table at one end of the room; there the long drawn out business of preparing the checks and signing them is being per-

formed. Paper, checks and bills pass from hand to hand. At too-long intervals the clerk calls out a name. Someone arises and heavy work shoes clump across the floor. "Sign here." The check is handed over; a mumbled thanks and a hurried exit.



Burial Ground of the Applegate Family, Old Church. It is Said That Anthony Applegate, Murdered During the Revolution, is Buried Here.

AGRICULTURE

Although in 250 years Middlesex County has become an increasingly industrial area, Monroe Township still retains its strictly agricultural character.

The early settlers who cleared the woodland had to reconcile a contradiction between the Indian names of the two streams which watered the territory. Matchaponix meant "poor land not producing anything out of which good bread can be made," and Manalapan was "a good country producing good bread."

To the European agricultural practice which they brought with them, the colonists added a mixture of Indian technique and pioneer ingenuity. The farmer had to be a jack of all trades, handy with tools and able to construct his own farming implements. Whatever was lacking in scientific methods was apparently compensated by the richness of the soil, for plentiful crops resulted.

Each farm had a kitchen garden where European and Indian vegetables were grown. There were often a watermelon and a buckwheat patch, for the melons were relished as thirst quenchers during the hot harvest season, and buckwheat cakes and puddings were a favorite item on the menu. Bees supplied honey to be used for sweetening, for preserving orchard fruits, and for producing a fermented drink called metheglin. There were flocks of goats, sheep and poultry.

Wheat, New Jersey's cash crop of the 18th century, did not seem profitable to the local farmers. Corn, which had been introduced to them by the Indians, continued to be the staple for livestock and domestic use. Leather, beef, pork, dried apples, peach and apple brandy, flax and lumber were sent to market. Among the export items were ropes of onions and cows' tails, used to manufacture hair ropes.

Social life was closely linked to the business of farming. Husking bees, hog killings and barn raisings became command social events enlivened by corn whiskey and peach brandy. On market days, at public vendues and fairs, the farm folk congregated and exchanged news and gossip.

Agriculture was more or less at a standstill during the Revolution, and remained depressed, because of low prices, high taxes, soil exhaustion and a trade embargo, for a number of years after the war. Farms sold for taxes brought no bidders, and farm products were a drug upon the market. After the War of 1812 trade improved, and the rapid expansion of the turnpike system brought a new era of prosperity to the farming population.

About 1800 Samuel Whitehead, an Englishman, purchased a large tract of land four miles from the town of South River. Finding the soil suitable for the cultivation of fruit, he developed several choice varieties of apples and peaches and started a nursery. Soon he was supplying trees to farmers throughout the township. In the neighborhood of Spotswood and in the higher areas between Jamesburg and Hightstown, the cultivation of peaches became an important industry. During the season, thousands of bushels of peaches were shipped daily to the New York market on ships from South River landing.

In the middle of the century Monroe, as described in the New Brunswick *Fredonian*, had become a rich agricultural region in a high state of cultivation, peopled by enterprising farmers. They helped finance and organize the Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad, and formed the Jamesburg Agricultural Society, the first of its kind in the county. The society sponsored agricultural fairs which attracted thousands of people to view the exhibits of stock, farming implements and produce.

A leader among the progressive farmers was James Buckelew, whose agricultural methods were made the subject of an article in the *American Agriculturist*, quoted in the New Brunswick *Fredonian* of September 26, 1854:

Mr. Buckelew . . . being a native of the region of his operations and present residence . . . was kept somewhat in check by the conservative (it is now in fashion to call it old fogy) influence of a not over-zealous or enterprising neighborhood. But not having the fear of experiments so fully impressed upon him as some others, he ventured to deviate somewhat from the beaten path, and occasionally struck out a new way for himself. How well he succeeded will be apparent when we state that he is the owner of between 3,000 and 4,000 acres of farming and woodlands, worth from \$15 to \$100 per acre. His general system . . . has been, after taking off the wood and timber . . . he burnt over the surface, and put in a crop of rye with

clover and grass-seed selected from his feeding troughs and mangers, affording him a large quantity. The next year he mowed a first crop of grass. The subsequent growth was turned under the following spring, and manure applied and planted in corn. The fourth year followed with rye, clover and grass, and repeat as before. This was the course with light blowing land. We saw several fields of corn, one of which contained 100 acres, and would average during this very dry season about 35 bushels per acre . . .

Squancum marl is an abundant product of the region a few miles south of Jamesburg, the application of which to farming lands has so materially enhanced their products in this section within a few years past. It is applied with the greatest advantage to this last mentioned soil (land with a slight admixture of clay constituting a light loamy soil, "called here grass land"). The railroad from its junction with the Camden and Amboy Railroad at this point, now extends to Freehold; and it is the design of the stockholders to continue it into the very heart of the marl region. This fertilizer can then be afforded at a price (say six to ten cents per bushel, according to the distance of transportation), which will render it of almost universal application in this section of the State. It now affords an extensive fertilizer for this neighborhood and is applied at the rate of 50 to 100 bushels per acre on medium soils, and 200 on the poorest, to be repeated in doses of 20 to 40 bushels per acre in two to five years.



"The first small dwellings . . . have been replaced by large, sturdy, frame farmhouses flanked by red-painted barns and sheds."

The article described his 400 to 500 mules, "about half of which are employed during the open season, in towing boats on the Raritan Canal, and the remainder are working on his farms . . . Peaches were grown here in great abundance but disease, years ago, infested the orchards," the article concludes.

By 1861 the *Fredonian* commented on the great changes that had been effected in Monroe within recent years:

The fields show forth unmistakable evidence of the effect of the value of marl and good farming, while many new and fine buildings, fences and improvements generally show that farming there is profitable. The soil in that vicinity appears to be more reliable and suffers less from the drouth than where the red shale abounds as it does in many parts. The owner of a good farm in these townships is a real nabob and can defy panics and "hard times" down to the end of time.

In 1867, at the December meeting of the Princeton Agricultural Association, its president called attention to the contrast between the prevailing style of living and that of some years ago, "when farmers and family dressed in homespun . . . went to meeting in wagons without springs . . . when a visit to the shoemaker in the fall satisfied the wants of the feet of the family for the ensuing year . . . when killing hogs was a pastime finished by sunrise, and a man working corn would tire a horse by breakfast time."

In the next few decades, as McCormick reapers and binders and other improved farm machinery came into use, local men saw the advantages of large-scale farming. There was some talk of combining neighboring farms into a farm trust based on a proportionate value of land and stock. In contrast to this point of view there were those who foresaw Monroe's future as a section devoted to gardening, dairying and country estates.

The growing of peaches revived, and in 1883 more than 1,000 baskets were passing through Jamesburg daily. Special fruit trains rattled over the tracks of the Camden and Amboy and the Jamesburg and Freehold roads. George Shultz's peach orchard was singled out for special mention as the largest and finest in the State. Mount Davison had 600 trees and planned to double the number. William and Furman Hoffman were also among the successful peach and apple growers. The boom in fruit culture came to an abrupt end in 1900 when the San Jose scale destroyed most of the fruit trees of the State.

Cranberries, introduced to the early settlers by the Indians, were cultivated as far north in New Jersey as Monroe by James Buckelew in the middle of the 19th century. His bogs near Hoffman and Tracy Stations and just outside of Jamesburg, where one still exists returned him quite a profit, as did everything else he touched. Newspapers in 1882 predicted that the berry would bring \$10 a bushel. When the bogs were at their productive height as many as 100 hands could be seen harvesting in the fall. Whole families were employed; men, women and children working side by side.

The bogs were operated for half a century by the Buckelew family, then leased to a tenant.

In 1907, the bogs were purchased by a corporation formed by Mr. and Mrs. John Vohman and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Toland. When the Tolands died the Vohmans continued in charge until the death of Mr. Vohman. The bogs are now managed by Mrs. John Vohman and her daughter, who have abandoned the costly cultivation processes and merely harvest each fall with the help of a few pickers. In the early days, picking was done by hand, but the pickers now use a steel-toothed comb, called a cranberry scoop, which pulls the berries from the vines and deposits them into an attached bag.

During the last decades of the 19th century, Monroe began to lay the foundation for its present-day agriculture. Potatoes were already invading the acres formerly devoted to grain and fruit. Times were prosperous. In December, 1884, large quantities of fowl were shipped to market for the holiday trade, bringing 13 to 15 cents a pound. In March, 1895, eggs sold for 16 to 18 cents a dozen, and in September, 1897, wheat went to \$1 a bushel and potatoes to 70 cents a bushel.



Cranberry Pickers

Above: How It Was Done in 1900.

Right: The Modern Way.

The poultry boom inspired Charles Edwards of Prospect Plains to invent a "setting hen," a zinc-lined box filled with sawdust in which eggs were placed in trays. Water, its temperature regulated by a thermometer, was poured in twice a day. Edwards claimed a 75 percent batting average for his mechanical setting hen.

And then came the day of the potato. Before reaching Monroe it had had an interesting and varied career. It was discovered in South America's Andes by the Spaniards in the 16th century. They introduced it into Europe, and the Scotch-Irish immigrants brought it back to America around 1719. Potatoes were introduced into New Jersey about the middle of the 18th century. According to the minutes of the Princeton Agricultural Association, potato growing began to assume major proportions in this section of New Jersey around 1867, when members of the association obtained 400 bushels per acre of Michigan White Sprouts and Goodrich Seedlings. One grower reported as many as 530 bushels of Mercers per acre. Later, when the potato rot cut deeply into production, one pious Princetonian declared "that the cause was not a fungus but a decree from Providence that the potato should go out of existence."

Potato culture during the 1880's and '90's, according to the *Jamesburg Record*, fluctuated widely from year to year. In 1895 when white potatoes brought 30 cents a bushel, the crop was drastically reduced, bringing the price back to 70 cents in 1897 and to almost a cent a potato in 1898. As prices rose production expanded. In 1902 the price dropped again to 30 cents.

With the invention of special machinery for planting and harvesting potatoes, and with the 20th century's motorization of the various processes the business of farming in Monroe has become more or less standardized. Horses have almost disappeared and cattle are so few that there is a notable absence of fences throughout the countryside. So uniform is farming practice that it can safely be said that the following seasonal routine is followed by about 75 per cent of the farmers.

In the latter part of March the fields are plowed and harrowed, although some growers prepare their fields in the preceding fall. The seed potato is cut so that each piece has at least two eyes. Fifteen bushels of seed to the acre are planted by a machine that in one operation makes the row, puts in the seed and fertilizer, and covers them up. Planting is usually completed by the end of April.

Early in May the plants break through the ground; blossoms begin to show in June. When the plants are six inches high they

are sprayed to keep aphids and leaf-hoppers in check. Most growers use a Bordeaux mixture, although some prefer dusting with lime. Spraying at ten-day intervals is recommended, but in Monroe it is the usual practice to make only four sprays during the ten-week growing season.

When the plants start to wither the potatoes are ripe, and harvesting begins. This lasts from the latter part of July into August. A potato digger pulled by a tractor lifts each furrow, passing it over a chain conveyor, which shakes the dirt out and deposits the potatoes in a neat row behind. Pickers follow the machine and place the potatoes in sacks which are carted to the barn, where an electric grader separates them according to size.

When the potatoes have been sacked and graded, some of them are taken to the nearest dealer, where an inspector checks the grading. They are then shipped to market. Most of Monroe's potatoes find their way to chain stores. The balance is sold to itinerant dealers whose trucks swarm through the township during the harvest season. Some of them buy up the inferior grades and palm them off on the public as "firsts." "Seconds," which are less in demand, are often shipped abroad. "Culls," the smallest potatoes, have little value and are generally fed to the pigs.

In September and October a small second crop, planted in July is harvested. These potatoes are used solely for seed the following spring. They are kept in a cold cellar, usually under the barn. Such seed usually supplies only about one-third of the requirements for spring planting, the balance being ordered from Maine and New York.

Potato yields range from 80 to 180 bags of 100 pounds per acre, with the average about 200 bushels per acre. The township's production exceeds 500,000 bushels a year. The principal variety is the Cobbler, with some Green Mountains, Chippewas and Katahdins. According to the county agricultural agent about 90 percent of Monroe farmers raise potatoes on a commercial scale, 75 percent of them planting from 25 to 100 acres in potatoes. The majority place the rest of their land in vegetables, corn, grain (wheat and rye) and hay.

The Monroe farmer usually hires two white farm-hands during the planting season. One of them is retained for the entire summer and is paid from \$40 to \$50 a month and board. The other works for \$2.50 a day during the brief planting period. Transient Negro labor has gradually taken the place of white labor at harvest time.



Potato Pickers and Picking Machine

During the peak of the harvest about eight extra hands are hired. The colored pickers, who have followed the ripening crops north from Florida, are usually housed in the barns and given facilities for cooking their meals. A few farmers have built shacks to shelter them. The pickers' pay varies from three and a half cents for 75 lbs. to four cents for 120 lbs. From \$3 to \$5 a day is earned, depending upon picking conditions, which are apt to be complicated by crab grass.

The farmers spend the winter repairing and overhauling agricultural machinery, putting farm buildings into shape and preparing for spring planting. Very little livestock is kept; a little poultry, a few swine and perhaps a family cow.

With 18,000 of its 28,000 acres in farmland, Monroe is today the most important agricultural township in Middlesex County. Its 237 farms in 1930 were valued at more than \$3,000,000. Beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, sweet corn and tomatoes are, after potatoes, the chief crops. Most farms raise some feed crops, and about 25 percent of them have small orchards of about five acres or less. There are a few commercial dairies but no commercial poultry farming. Several goat farms near Jamesburg are kept by Italians who sell their animals for the Italian Easter festival in New York City.

During the last 20 years second-generation Polish and Hungarian farmers from Long Island have settled in the township, where they now form a substantial portion of the population. They are vegetable growers but not intensive or truck farmers. Their largest single crop is tomatoes for canning; they also raise green beans, peppers, cabbage and eggplants for the New York market.

The newcomers bought their land during the boom period of the late 1920's and have experienced difficulty because of large mortgages. But their simple way of living, help from the Farm Security Board, and their adaptation to a subsistence type of farming have helped them to overcome their most pressing difficulties.



"Very little livestock is kept . . ." Monroe Hotel, c. 1890

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The first industries were natural concomitants of agriculture. Sawmills and gristmills were built to take advantage of the water power supplied by the Manalapan and Matchaponix. Around these there gradually developed settlements, later to become industrial centers. Spotswood grew up from one of the earliest of these mills, established on the Manalapan. Another was built on the brook at Cranbury. Jamesburg got its start with the mill finally known as Buckelew's Mill. In the Matchaponix section there were several gristmills and sawmills.

The first mill recorded in the territory was a primitive sawmill established early in the Colonial period by a half-breed Indian. His name, Weechqueechley, seems to be a phonetic representation of the sound his mill probably made. The Scottish settlers got around this tongue-twister by calling him McQueeley. The mill stood on the Manalapan at a spot in Outcalt just outside Spotswood, later Outcalt's Mill, which concluded its industrial career as the place where Bernarr Macfadden published *Physical Culture* magazine.

Spotswood

Because Spotswood was on the old Amboy-Bordentown road it probably had a tavern, blacksmith's shop, wheelwright's shop and store early in the 18th century. The most important pre-Revolutionary industrial enterprise in the Spotswood section was the first forge, built in 1750 by Peter Ten Eyck.

In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of October 11, 1764, the forge is described in the advertisement of a public vendue as follows:

A forge on Monolopon River, commonly called South River, not above four miles from the landing on said river, where boats go to New York, and is the nearest but one to any landing of any forge in the provinces of New York or New Jersey, so that all the land carriage is but four miles; the forge has three fires, and is capable to make 120 tons of bar-iron per annum.

The sale resulted from Ten Eyck's having been imprisoned for debt; this was happening to many others all over the State, since prices had fallen and money was scarce. Fortunately he escaped. In the advertisement of that escape he is described as a former resident of Spotswood and the operator of a gristmill in addition to the forge.

The property passed to Dirck Brinckerhoff and Peter Keeltas, who conveyed it to Jeston Homfray in 1771. In this deed the property was described as on the Manalapan River, "near the old Indian mill dam." Eventually this forge was merged with the one started nearby by Perry and Hayes in 1763. The two gentlemen "erected, at their sole expense, Works at Spotswood in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey for the manufacturing of Bar Iron and Flower (their gristmill). In the purchasing, stocking and completing of which they expended about ten thousand pounds."

Apparently the enterprise was extended to comprise gristmills and a sawmill, for two gristmills are mentioned in an advertisement in the *New York Journal or General Advertiser* of 1768. In 1772 Jeston Homfray, then owner of the gristmill, advertised in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for "a sober good Miller who understands the business, and has been used to burrs and the boulting and packing business; such a man that can bring a good character, may meet with a good place, to look after and tend a set of mills with two pairs of stones."

During the Revolution the forge was confiscated because the proprietors were Tories. Final judgment was entered against Miles Shearbrook, one of the partners, for joining the British Army. His one-third share in "a valuable estate at Spotswood, consisting of forges, gristmills, dwelling-houses, carriages, stock, Negroes, etc." was advertised for sale. In 1779 ownership passed to Col. Joseph Haight, who promptly listed for sale two gristmills, one sawmill and the iron works.

The *New York Gazette or Weekly Post Boy* of 1772 gives a complete account of a paper mill at Spotswood, 50 feet long and 20 wide. The mill's career can be followed for several years through subsequent issues of the journal. Frederick Roemer, the owner,

agreed to initiate anyone interested in buying it into the arts of paper making. Apparently he was successful in selling it, for in 1776 the mill was being offered for rent by John Kline.

Within a month a new miller, William Shaffer, called for "one or two Journeymen Paper Makers, who shall receive Two and a Half Dollars per Week, and found in Meat, Drink, Washing and Lodging. Also a new Paper-Mill to let, with a Farm belonging thereto, for a moderate Rent. For further Particulars enquire of the Subscribers at Spotswood Paper-Mill, New Jersey, who gives the highest Price for Linen Rags."

The shortage of rags during the Revolution hampered the mill's operations. An advertisement of 1778 in the *New Jersey Gazette* regrets that no more "Subscriptions can be received at present for this Gazette for Want of Paper." Readers are exhorted to save all their rags and send them "as Opportunity offers" either to the paper mill at Spotswood, to the printing office at Trenton, or to Anthony Armbruster's in Burlington—"where three Pence per Pound is given for those that are delivered clean whether coarse or fine, or whether Cotton or Linen."

William Shaffer, evidently sick of his bargain, set forth his grievances in a manifesto, July 1778:

Notice is hereby given to John Kline, tanner, living at or near Albany, owner of the Spotswood paper mill, that the subscriber does not intend to keep the said paper mill longer than three months from this day, as the said mill stood still for nine months in a year on account of the war, and will be so as long as the war lasts. The subscriber therefore desires the said John Kline will come and see to settle about the mill.

The following year Peter Musick was the owner. He started his career optimistically, informing the public that having

at great expense, put the Spotswood Paper-mill in New Jersey, in the best order so that now he is able to make as good paper of all sorts and sizes as any that is made in this country, and at as reasonable rates, if he could but procure sufficiency of linen rags; therefore he desires all families and individuals . . . to save their rags for him, as he intends to send out people to gather them, paying ready money and the highest price for the same, or an equivalent in other good and necessary commodities.

The next record of the mill's ownership appears in a historical sketch of the Earhart family published in the *Jamesburg Record* of January 30, 1886. "John Earhart became interested with James Dorset in 1786 in operating a paper mill, on the site now occupied by Skinners' snuff mill, and continued many years."

Snuff milling and cigar making, introduced by Daniel Snowhill and William Dill, flourished in Spotswood at the end of the 18th and

first part of the 19th centuries. After Daniel Snowhill's death in 1840 his son Andrew carried on the business for ten years under the name of Andrew Snowhill and Sons. John Appleby converted the old paper mill into a snuff mill, the machinery for which he removed from Texas, where he had begun the manufacture of snuff in 1836. In 1858 this property passed to his son William and to Isaac De Voe, who finally became sole owner.

Another noted snuff mill of the time was John D. Outcalt's, built about 1845 on the site of Weechqueechley's ancient sawmill. He, too, was succeeded by his son, John, who converted the plant into a hominy mill. The numerous small snuff mills throughout the neighborhood were merged into the present large factory in Helmetta.

A distillery built by John Brown in 1806, a tannery built two years later and operated by Matthias Prest, and a tannery and shoe factory operated by George Lane from 1833 to 1853 gave Spotswood a desultory industrial life. Barber and Howe, writing in 1844, mention three stores, a gristmill and a sawmill, and remark that "snuff and cigars are extensively manufactured in this village." With the removal of the snuff industry to Helmetta about the middle of the 19th century, Spotswood was left without industries when it was taken to form East Brunswick.

Today, with the exception of a small sweater-manufacturing shop employing about 25 women, a small hotel, a feed dealer, a few stores and several garages, there is nothing to mar the placidity of the little community. Ranged for the most part along one street, the comfortable frame houses rest behind tall old trees that line the side of the road. In places strips of uncut woodland edge their way between the houses.

Quite out of keeping with the character of the sleepy little village of 921 inhabitants is the huge, modern red brick and white stone factory on the outskirts. Empty and still, it is a monument to Spotswood's brief dream of industrial revival. It was Benito Mussolini, dictator of Italy, who put an end to that dream.

The factory, known as the Salpa Plant, was built in 1929 by the American Salpa Corporation. The name Salpa is said to represent the initials of an Italian who had raised \$5,000,000 in his own country to set up a factory for reclaiming leather from scrap. By 1930 the factory, fully equipped, went into operation with 400 employees. After about nine months the Italian promoter returned to Italy to raise more money. Apparently the only thing he was able to raise was Mussolini's wrath, for that gentleman clapped Spots-

wood's leading industrialist into jail for alleged anti-fascist activities and for trying to take money out of Italy. So far as anyone knows he is still there; all his money and estates have been confiscated. The factory ran for four months longer and then closed.

In 1933 the National Lead Company bought the factory, intending to manufacture paint there, but the jinx lingered. Their refuse was of so high an acid content that the State forbade its discharge into the creek. At present the American Pulp Company has an option on the plant. Meanwhile the sign on the front gate continues to inform Spotswood and the world that there is "No Help Needed."

Cranbury

A gristmill built at any early date to take advantage of the water power of Cranberry Brook was sold in 1741 by Thomas Grubbs to John Collins. In 1770 it was advertised in the *New York Journal* by Grace and John Reynolds as "the noted Grist-Mill on Cranberry Brook." They describe it as having two stones and three good bolts "which go by water, the stream is good . . . The mills are well situated for a country store, lying on the stage road ten miles from South River landing, and 18 miles from Abbot's landing on Delaware."

The presence of the stage road also led to the erection of Campbell's Tavern in 1766. There was at least one store, recorded in 1774, when William and Abraham Beekman advertised some real estate for sale, saying: "It is a good stand for trade, a store having been kept there many years with advantage, which is likely to increase, by the establishment of a weekly stage through Cranbury."

"Cranberry Mills" by 1777 had grown to include a "convenient shop for a cooper, and a still and a malt house." An unfortunate circumstance has preserved to posterity the name of the storekeeper in Cranbury in 1781. His shop "was broken open, and the following articles taken therefrom, viz. One bolt of ozenbrigs, containing upwards of forty yards, one piece of fine yard-wide linen, one piece of yard-wide mode, two buckskins, two wool hats, one piece of broad stamped riband, a quantity of fine thread, and sundry other articles." William Sloan, the victim of the robbery, offered "TWENTY DOLLARS in gold or silver" for the apprehension of the thief "with the above goods."

Thomas F. Gordon wrote in 1834 that Cranbury consisted of "a Presbyterian Church with cupola and bell, an academy, a gristmill, 2 tanneries, 3 taverns, 2 stores, and from 60 to 80 dwellings."

Today's Cranbury Inn continues the hospitable traditions of pre-Revolutionary days. The modern guest half expects to see the Philadelphia stagecoach roll up along the tree-lined macadam road and stop at the Inn door for a change of horses and a snack for the passengers.

The quiet town lies along two parallel roads, its neat frame houses set in abundant lawns and gardens. There are a number of large, luxurious dwellings, the homes of retired farmers from the surrounding countryside. There is a small Negro colony, fluctuating in size with the harvest seasons—some return South in the winter; others remain to take what employment is afforded by the large hay and grain establishment and odd jobs in the town.

The remainder of Monroe township had very little commercial or industrial activity. There was a tavern along the Bordentown-Amboy turnpike between Cranbury and Spotswood; another was operated by David Williamson at Rhode Hall, midway between Spotswood and Cranbury on the Cranbury-South River road as early as 1730.

It is certain that Matthias Johnson practiced tanning, probably in the middle 1700's. An old account shows charges for tanning skins for Thomas Johnson, Bert Voorhees, Benjamin Luire, John Mount, John Baley, William Applegate, James Prine, Samuel Wetherill, Cornelius Voorhees, Samuel Potts and others

Matthias' grandson, Matthias, kept an account of his dealings during 1833 with John Appleby's Spotswood store:

1 lb. Tobacco	16c
1 gal. Molasses	30c
Candlewick	13c
1 bu. ground Salt	40c
Ink Powder	16c

Matthias frequently bartered for his purchases such farm produce as eggs, cords of wood, calfskins and potatoes.

John Pope of Matchaponix noted in 1778 that "there are several gristmills and sawmills within a mile of the place, and wood may readily be transported to New York market."

William Morse kept a cobbler shop in Half Acre. Following is an excerpt from the very complete record of his accounts covering the period 1798 to 1834. They give an index to the cost of cobbling

in those days, and, more important, serve as "Who's Who" of the Monroe of that time:

September 11, 1798	George Bergen	
To mending 2 pairs shoes.		3 shillings
April 27, 1799	John Hooper, Dr.	
To cash for 2 jugs at Hidestown (Hightstown)		3s 9p
To making two pair of Shoes a 50* sh per		1 Pound 10 sh.
To making 2 pair for Caty and soling		19 sh.
To cash at Milston bridge.		10 sh. 10p.
To footing a pair of boots		12 sh. 10p.

Morse apparently did not confine his business activities exclusively to cobbling. His accounts are dotted with such entries as "to one gil of brandy" and "to two brandys and four quarts of oats," and "to carting grane." Among his customers were John Anderson, Joseph Perine and William Applegate, Robert Ashton, Robert Barclay, Richard Buckelew, Joseph Chaimberlin, Amos David and Peter Dye, John Disbrow, William Edwards, Joseph Embley, Henry Fisher, "James harbert, Constable" (1805), Henry Hoffman, Stephen Jimson, William Johnson, Daniel Jones, Hugh McChesney, William Mount, Robert Perrine, Matthew Rew, John Rite, Andrew Rowan, Kenneth and Rine (Serrines) Smock, Jason Snedeker, John Stoniker, William Stuls, Lias Tice, William West (who kept the famous Billy West's Tavern in Jamesburg), Edmon Youngs, "Mr. Schoolmaster" and many others. James Buckelew begins to appear in this book in 1834.

William's son, Garret, continued the cobbling business. He seems to have extended the scope of the business by selling fish. Among the entries in his account book, dating from 1853, in Garret's own spelling and punctuation, are: "Enoch pulin to fish, 30c" and "John clyton to inglish tow to fish" (John Clayton of Englishtown, to fish). Others in Garret's book are Daniel Benet, Nelson Bucklow, Peter Cunning ham (sic), Rash Disbrow, John Dunker, Maty Dye, Lidy Fisher, Black Hank, George Mackdowal, John Mount, John D. Reads, Zekle Silvers, Peter Verhes and others.

Jamesburg

Jamesburg, which started last, eventually became the largest commercial and industrial town in the section. The mill around which the town developed is first recorded in the county road book, dated September 11, 1787:

**Obviously should be "15."*

Beginning at James Gulick's blacksmith shop on the post road from Amboy to Burlington thence several courses to Inslee's Mills (Ensley's) do relay a part of said road beginning at a white oak tree being the southwest corner of Isaac Snediker's land on the post road from Amboy to Burlington.

William Davidson, the owner in 1789, sold the property to George Rozell (Rossell). Eleven years later it was sold to John Mount, whose widow deeded the mill to William Gordon in 1821. Gordon described as one who "was fond of fast horses and high living," lost possession when Jonathan J. Coddington foreclosed the mortgage and the sheriff sold the property to John H. Disborough in 1832. James Buckelew acquired the mill in the latter part of the same year.

At the end of the 18th century Ensley's Mills consisted of the mill, a few scattered residences and a small store. The store was kept for a time by James Farrington, who was succeeded by James Buckelew, followed by John A. Davison and in 1848 by James Redmond.

A map of Jamesburg in 1832, "then Gordon's Mills" according to the inscription, shows only a flour mill and a sawmill, with a blacksmith shop nearby. Early historians, however, claim that there was also a fulling mill. The only other business indicated by the map is Billy West's tavern at the corner of the Half Acre road. The store is not mentioned.

By 1855 Jamesburg was included in the new telegraph line between Bordentown and Newark and could communicate with "any telegraph station in the United States and British America." A few months later, with the consolidation of the Camden and Long Branch, the Jamesburg and Perth Amboy, and the Perth Amboy and Bull's Ferry companies, under the name of the Delaware and Hudson Telegraph Company, Jamesburg was lifted to the level of such cities as Bordentown, Hightstown, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Rahway, Elizabeth and Newark.

Due to the activities of James Buckelew and to the coming of the railroads, Jamesburg grew rapidly during the next 30 years. Boyd's Business Directory of 1860 lists the following businesses in the town:

Four "Black and Whitesmiths," (whitesmiths worked with lighter metals) two shoemakers, one butcher, five carpenters and builders, one harness and saddle maker, a millinery store, a real estate agent, a surveyor and a tailor. Other businesses were the brickyards operated by J. Buckley and John Hill and Co.; the distilleries run by Anthony Applegate, D. M. Perrine and John D. Sodin; the mills of James Buckelew and G. W. Mount; Richard Fleming's Jamesburg Hotel,

T. Applegate's Monroe Hotel, and John C. Smock's Rhode Hall (apparently the directory took liberties in the matter of hotels to cover all of Monroe Township); John D. Buckelew's and John G. Schultz's nurseries; John E. Marsh, the physician; Daniel Bennet's and James Buckelew's sawmills; four coal dealers, including William H. Courter, and Joseph C. Magee and Co., and four masons, including John Davison and William E. Dey.

Jamesburg's first bank was organized in 1864 by James Buckelew and his sons, taking advantage of the national banking law. This was the First National Bank of Jamesburg. The directors were James Buckelew, Joseph C. Magee, Nathaniel W. Morris and John G. Schultz; I. S. Buckelew was the first president.

Seven years later the New Brunswick *Fredonian* records the excitement attending a supposed attempt to rob the bank:

"Jamesburg, N. J., was thrown into considerable excitement on Saturday evening . . . by the discovery that suspicious looking men were seen lurking in the vicinity of the bank building, for the supposed purpose of making another raid on its vaults." Apparently it had already been robbed once. When the suspicious citizenry began to investigate they found still another stranger hidden under the platform near the bank. "Through some misunderstanding he was allowed to depart. By this time Colonel Buckelew having arrived, a vigorous search was instituted." A merry chase ensued in and about the back roads of the township and "although they were very close upon them and finally chased them to Monmouth Junction, they managed to escape."

In addition to the mills and the bank the Buckelew interests extended to the foundry in upper Jamesburg, built in 1878 by C. J. Crosby and Brother. It passed into the hands of Magee and Buckelew in 1880.

The *Jamesburg Record*, edited by E. S. Hammell, preserved a complete record of Jamesburg's business, political and social development from 1882 until 1904. The first issue announced triumphantly that "in place of the one store of 1832 we now have 14 stores. Five are general provision and grocery stores." The owners included Paxton and Buckelew, George Van Artsdalen and H. W. Crosby. Among the other stores were M. Cowperthwait's drug store, Magee and Davison's paint and hardware store, Benjamin Arber's shoe store and Jennie Elliott's millinery shop. The industries consisted of C. Snedeker's planing mill, a sash and blind factory operated by Irving Hutchinson, the shirt factory, and a

carriage factory run by Charles Brown. David C. Browne was the host at the hotel at that time. The news columns mentioned the brickmaking establishment of Buckelew's Sons under the management of Thomas Elliott. "One excellent kiln has already been burnt and all but 20,000 sold, and now a large force is put on to meet the demands of trade."

The greatest event in the industrial history of Jamesburg was the opening of the Finley, Gourlay and Finch shirt factory in 1871. Downs joined the firm three years later, and the name was changed to Downs, Gourlay and Finch; in 1876 the company became Downs and Finch. Its 100 workers produced 50 to 100 dozen shirts weekly. The firm grew rapidly, employment increased, and subsidiary works such as a box factory were established.

In 1884 the Knights of Labor succeeded in organizing the Downs and Finch workers. "We have had a strike and lockout at Jamesburg," the *Record* reported on May 3, 1884, "and the town must be recognized hereafter as one of the growing centers of labor agitation unless Downs and Finch nip the germ at once. The ironers struck last Friday and joined a Union at Yonkers."

A letter to the editor in the same issue made it clear that the Shirt Ironers Protective Union of Yonkers, N. Y., was organized on April 26 of that year.

"All except a few well known agitators," the *Record* stated on May 10, "are back at work."

Two years later Downs and Finch needed a larger and more modern building. They let it be known that they really didn't care whether the new factory was in Jamesburg or Kalamazoo—what with labor trouble and all. They intimated that they were going where they got the best offer. The best offer would consist of "a large building—to cost probably \$10,000 and it must be built quickly."

The town merchants went into a huddle at, appropriately, F. H. Pownall's undertaking parlors. Contrary to expectations it was decided to present Messrs. Downs and Finch with the nice new factory their hearts desired.

Before work could start on the new building, however, labor trouble was revived—this time by the employer. "A LOCKOUT!" screamed the *Record* headline on May 15, 1886. Editor Hammel's attitude toward collective bargaining had evidently been modified in the course of two years' observation, for his account of the disturbance reveals some sympathy for the workers' cause:

About 25 ironers of Downs & Finch's shirt factory here were locked out on Wednesday morning, they having refused on Tuesday evening, at the close of work to renounce the union they had formed. The men have since held a meeting and laid the matter before the District Assembly at New Brunswick. The men have expressed themselves as being injured without cause, not having struck for wages, shorter hours, or anything calculated to arouse the ire of their employers. They have acted very nicely about the affair and have not indulged in unseemly language or disturbances.

The name of the union here is Advance Assembly, and the Master Workman is named McMahon, of Freehold. There are about 31 members. They declare they will never go back to work on the basis of renunciation of the union.

The firm will have nothing to say to any labor organization concerning the conduct of their factories. They declare they are able to fill up their factory at once and will do so.

The girls of the ironing room walked out in sympathy with the locked-out men and formed their own union. In December of that year Labor Inspector Fell "appeared in Jamesburg and inspected the Shirt Factory. He found not quite a dozen children among the large number of operatives and these he ordered back to school."

One year later Downs and Finch were compelled to capitulate to the Knights of Labor. The *Record* reported:

Downs & Finch have experienced some difficulty in the management of their business by the influence of the Knights of Labor. A united opposition by the order has produced an effectual "Boycotting" of their goods and compelled the firm to fall in line with the terms prescribed by the organization. Mr. Downs is said to have withdrawn from the firm, and that Rothchilds of New York has taken his place.

A partnership with the Rothschilds, noted shirt makers, brought new capital into the venture. A clause in the partnership agreement limited the Jamesburg factory to making the hard shirt, while the Rothchilds filled all orders for the new soft shirt. The soft shirts began to replace the boiled ones in popular favor, and Downs and Finch failed in 1889.

Since its separation from the township in 1896 a few factories have operated sporadically in the town, but Jamesburg has never regained the industrial importance brought to it by Downs and Finch. When, later, the motor truck made inroads on the railroad's freight business, Jamesburg also lost the freight yards which had made it an important railroad town.

The Jamesburg Business Men's Association is hoping to intercept clothing factories on their flight south by convincing them that Jamesburg's workers will toil as long and as cheap as any. At present there are two small clothing shops in the town, employing 125 women between them.

For the present Jamesburg must content itself with being the

shopping center for the township. Approximately 50 stores, the post office, bank and movie house are scattered for about three blocks along the two streets that skirt the Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad, which bisects the town. Along one side of the tracks runs concrete county highway 5-R-5, lined with the town's more modern stores. On the other side of the tracks are a few older shops strung along a macadamized road. The majority of the wealthier inhabitants, mainly shopkeepers and professional men, live west of the tracks in large, comfortable frame houses surrounded by generous lawns and gardens. Many of the streets are unpaved. East of the tracks in smaller frame dwellings, neat and well cared for, live clerks and mechanics.

Prospect Plains

Prospect Plains began to develop after the building of the Camden and Amboy Railroad in 1830-32. Before that the only recorded business activity had been a distillery run by Garret S. Davison from 1822 to 1834.

The first result of the boom inaugurated by the railroad was a general store opened in 1832 by Davison and Stonaker, who kept it for a year. It stood near the railroad tracks on the corner opposite the present residence of R. M. Vandenberg. The store remained in the Davison family for more than 50 years, the ownership passing from the original founders to Garret S. Davison in 1838; to his widow and son, J. S. Davison, in 1845, and to D. G. Davison in 1860. The New Brunswick *Fredonian* of September 19, 1861, records a burglary of the store in which \$20 in pennies seems to have been the principal loot.

Five years later Prospect Plains had achieved the dignity of a place in the New Jersey Business Directory, which listed its industries as follows: Abijah Applegate and Samuel J. Perrine, carriage and coach manufacturers; G. D. Davison, country store; Enoch Pullen, nursery; Joseph N. Reed and Edwin R. Thompson, hotels.

In 1884 Messrs. Magee and Paxton "rented their store, recently purchased, to J. H. and W. Mount, who removed their store from Half Acre to the new place." Two weeks later, according to the *Record* the Mounts had taken possession of "the Hoffman store" and "are ready to serve their friends." The *Record* adds: "We now boast of two stores at this place."

Just how long there were two stores cannot be established. The Davison store must have closed its doors before the end of the century. There are frequent references to the Mount store in the Jamesburg newspaper. One item notes “. . . the activity of the Machine agents. The Triumph is represented by C. A. Stults. Champion by J. H. Mount & Brother. The Buckeye by L. Pullen, and they report business brisk.” The “Machine” was probably some piece of agricultural equipment. Another item told of “the large quantities of poultry shipped for the Thanksgiving market by our enterprising merchants, Mount & Bro.”

Some time in the 1890's Abijah Applegate, better known as Bijé appeared on the business horizon. Bijé doesn't remember the exact date, but the *Jamesburg Record* of 1891 gives an account of Bijé's business activities: “The post office here has been newly refurnished. The assistant postmaster, Abijah, has shown his skill in the job, having some 80 boxes to let and all taken. So much for push for which he is noted.”

Two years later the store is referred to as Mount and Applegate in the account of a burglary which netted the raiders \$500. It appears that W. Mount withdrew from the business around this time and left his brother John to go into partnership with Applegate. Bijé became sole owner in 1902 when ill health forced the retirement of his partner.

Bijé's idea of a model general store was Perrine's in Freehold. At Perrine's you could buy anything, and to prove it Abijah, who has a rich store of yarns, cites the instance of a man walking casually into the store and asking for a pulpit—which he got, on the spot.

Abijah's favorite recollection concerns the local wag, George B. Perrine, who was noted for his practical—and impractical—jokes. George bet a little Jewish peddler 50 cents that he could jump into his basket of eggs without breaking one. The peddler accepted the bet. George took a running jump and landed hobnailed boots foremost plumb in the middle of the basket, breaking every egg in it. George contemplated the havoc with an amazed eye, and is reported to have said: “By gosh! That's the first time that ever happened to me! Here's your 50 cents.”

Bijé was once a victim of one of George's jokes. A woman came into the store one morning and asked for two butter crocks. The crocks happened to be on a balcony that ran the length of the store, so Bijé asked George to help him get the crocks down. Bijé

hustled up onto the balcony and tenderly handed down the first crock to George.

"Ooops!" George exclaimed, as the huge crock slipped through his fingers and smashed into fragments on the floor.

"Where I was a damn fool," Bijé concludes, "was when I went ahead and handed down the second crock."

But Bijé got even. Until the cost of the crocks was made up he palmed off nickel cigars on George instead of the customary ten-cent ones that George paid for.

The store was moved to its present site when a fire destroyed the original structure. In 1925 Applegate sold the business to Emil Romweber, who has continued it to the present.

Some time between 1850 and 1860 the storekeepers J. S. and D. G. Davison established a blacksmith shop in Prospect Plains. The Davisons rented the shop to Gilbert Perrine. The next smith recorded is Nathaniel Cox in 1882; but there were several between whose names have not been preserved. Albert Tice, who was blacksmith from 1897 to 1902, remembers that his predecessor was Jack Downs. The blacksmith shop apparently served as a social club in the evening, judging by this item in the *Jamesburg Record* of 1894:

Quite a number of sportsmen gather at the blacksmith shop every evening to enjoy a game of quoits, and from the excellent scores made, somebody seems to know how to do it. We see among the experts of the game our good natured friends, Duncan, Snedeker, Tice and our ever jolly merchant Bige. The race for the championship badge which is an elaborate leather medal from present indications points to our merchant being the happy owner.

The 1914 Business Directory listed James Dey and S. E. Perrine as Prospect Plains' blacksmiths.

The Davisons were an enterprising family. Having got the blacksmith started, D. G. Davison in 1878 set up a laundry in the building formerly occupied by the carriage shop next door to the smithy. By 1882 he employed 24 hands. Three years later the entire Davison property was sold by the sheriff. George D. Bergen, host at the Railroad House, acquired the laundry and the smithy for \$1,700. "We hear," said the *Record* with surprise, "he intends to operate them."

For a time, during the latter part of the 19th century, "Daddy" Britten had a cobbler shop between the blacksmith and the carriage factory.

For 55 years Prospect Plains had a hotel which served as the center of community activities. In 1862 Arthur Ruding remodeled the 30-year-old William Stults house, installed a barroom, and called

his hostelry the Railroad House. Many a town meeting was held at the Railroad House during the 1860's, as witnessed by the bill for refreshments presented to the committee. After Ruding, William G. Mount and David Perrine were the innkeepers until 1874, when George Mortimore operated the hotel for about a year; then Perrine repossessed it under a mortgage. George D. Bergen purchased the property in 1878 and remained Prospect Plains' host until 1900. He established a race track nearby that drew patrons to the Railroad House for refreshments.

George Bergen did his best to promote the growth of his village, offering at one time to give a building lot to any large industry that would locate in the town. "He is one of our liberal men," the *Record* pointed out, "and if the town ever grows it will be owing to that liberal spirit of his having infected the rest of our moneyed citizens."

Bergen instituted a series of shooting matches. "There has been over 200 live birds provided and some of the noted shots have promised to be present. Mr. Bergen has provided plenty of clay pigeons so those who wish to show their skill can have the opportunity to do so," it was reported.

Here is a picture of Bergen in action, as given in the *Record* of Feb. 24, 1900:

A jolly party of 14 led by Justice of the Peace, George De Voe of Spottswood, had a jolly ride Monday. They left Spottswood about 6 p. m. and found a genial welcome at the Railroad Hotel at 11 p. m. Tired, hungry, and 'wet', they aroused George and soon under his genial smile and good things for the inner man forgot their long and tiresome ride. With music and dancing they welcomed the 'wee sma' hours and when morning came took the train for their homes after voting it a good time.

About 1901 Robert R. Vandenberg, Bergen's nephew, rented the hotel and in 1907 he purchased it. Vandenberg operated the hotel until 1917 and then restored the old house to its original status as a residence.

Prospect Plains' largest industry, the hay press, was set up in 1876 by Gedney and Hoffman. By 1882 it was in the possession of A. W. Dey, who, it was reported the following year, "is doing a prosperous business in baled hay particularly at the shore." Under Grover and Chamberlin, who bought the press in 1885, the business increased. A newspaper account of December 28, 1888, stated:

Grover & Chamberlin on Dec. 20th, shipped . . . 20,000 lbs. poultry. They intend soon to make another large shipment for the New Year's market. Large quantities of poultry are raised in this section of the country every year and of the very finest quality. We cannot exactly say we live



Bennet & Clayton Co., Inc., Prospect Plains

in a land of corn and wine, but we do live in a land of corn, chickens and turkeys and nearly every able bodied man knows how to carve!

In 1891 Grover took as partner William K. Snedeker, to replace Chamberlin, who had died four years earlier. Under their joint ownership the hay press property at Hoffman Station was purchased and set up as a branch.

In 1910 S. E. Bennett replaced Grover and the hay press was converted into a fertilizer plant. In 1914 S. E. Bennett and G. A. Bennett took over the plant. Three years later S. E. Bennett and William T. Dennison were the owners. In 1927 Bennett, Dennison, Clayton Co., Inc., purchased the press and another one owned by Mershon and Clayton at Monmouth Junction. The two were merged and in 1929 the name of the corporation was changed to its present one, Bennet and Clayton Co., Inc.

The firm deals extensively in potatoes during the harvesting season, but the principal activity is the manufacture of chemical fertilizers and insecticides. Its products are marketed under the name "B-C". The officers of the corporation are S. E. Bennet, president; B. S. Clayton, vice president; A. A. Clayton, treasurer; F. W. Heidinger, secretary.

A letter in the *Record* in 1882 from a resident boasted of the little village and of its neighbors:

Even if we have a "Devil's Half Acre" so near us we can speak well for the comfort and courtesy that a wayfarer will receive. Busily engaged waiting on a throng of customers we find Mrs. H. E. Mount, and one can find almost everything that can be found in a country store—while the gallant Major makes harness for the million—J. Mount Dey and brother do a great deal of threshing, and do it promptly. If you visit our place you will find the firm of D. G. Davison & Son doing splendid business. The post office is in connection with the store. Mr. F. D. Bergen knows how to keep a hotel. James Hoffman occupies the position of depot master. If we need a veterinary Doctor Jobes is at hand.

Of the business establishments mentioned by this booster of 1882, only the hay press and the country store survive. In addition there is now a garage, built in 1916 by Edward Walters and operated since 1918 by Samuel E. Dey. Emil Romweber, a former clerk of Abijah Applegate, tends the store, which is housed in a two-story, gray, clapboarded structure that faces the Camden and Amboy tracks. Canned goods, groceries, meats, drygoods, hardware, work clothes, stationery and confectionery mingle on its shelves and in showcases. Near the coal stove in the center stands the same battered old bench on which the cronies of a bygone day sat and discussed politics and local gossip. Now the bench supports an occasional cake or canned soup salesman who stops for a few minutes of casual gossip. Squeezed inconspicuously into a corner near the window stands the battered partition which holds the mail boxes with their little metal doors and thick-paned windows; a small writing desk converted from a spooled-thread cabinet offers the convenience of a blotter, ink and pen to Uncle Sam's customers.

Prospect Plains is the largest village in the township and the seat of government. Yet it is small, as Middlesex County communities go. Clustered at the railroad crossing, its 15 or 16 large frame houses, well groomed and set in spacious grounds under spreading old trees, bespeak a level of prosperity slightly above that of the balance of the township.

Half Acre

Whether William Morse, the cobbler, was the first businessman in Half Acre is hard to say. At any rate it was a close race between him and the tavern which, it is known, was built during the latter part of the 18th century. The earliest remembered occupant of the tavern was Daniel Lott, who, the story goes, fenced off a short-cut across his land, enclosing exactly half an acre of ground and thus giving the basis for the name Half Acre. The crossroads at

one time was more commonly referred to as Devil's Half Acre because of the boisterous goings-on at the tavern. Lott's successor was Joseph Schenck, who later sold the property to Samuel Wetherell. After Wetherell's death about 1832 it was purchased by Thomas Hoffman, who rented it to transient innkeepers. Nelson Thompson purchased the old tavern about 1860 but held it for only a year, when E. A. Thompson came into possession. At his death in 1881 his widow, Mary A., and his son, John N. Thompson, continued the business. When Mrs. Thompson remarried seven years later her husband, Robert M. Vandenberg, took charge of the Monroe Hotel. In 1918 the hotel was converted into a residence by Charles Addison Stults.

The entire business development of the village was confined to a group of buildings at the junction of the Half Acre and Prospect Plains roads. Mrs. D. A. Mount opened a store in 1877, and a year later her husband set up as a wheelwright. At about the same time Nelson Barkelew operated a smithy close by. By 1882 all these businesses had been bought from the Mounts by George Morse. When Morse's holdings were wiped out by fire a few years later, he went into the produce business and became a large dealer in apples.

Today the traveler is hardly aware that he is passing through a community when he takes the hairpin turn into the Prospect Plains road. Careful scrutiny, however, will show him that the farmhouses are slightly less far apart than usual. The memories of a more strenuous life linger in the calm atmosphere of this little section; it was not known as Devil's Half Acre for nothing.

Applegarth

Applegarth's first claim to recognition was Red Tavern, a noted hostelry of Revolutionary times whose successor is the only commercial establishment in the settlement. As a matter of fact, Applegarth was known as Red Tavern until 1888, when it took unto itself a post office and changed its name.

Colonel Jones was the first recorded owner of the tavern on the old road from Hightstown to Englishtown which runs north of the modern concrete State highway. Jones is first recorded about 1800. There was a succession of owners after Jones, until 1853, when Samuel Vandenberg purchased the tavern. At his death in 1894 his son, James, took over the management of the business. James, a pro-



*Left: Original Red Tavern,
Burned in 1914.*



*Right: The Tavern At Its
Second Site Next to Enos
Mount's Store.*

gressive hotelkeeper, resolved to replace the antiquated inn with a more modern establishment. He first sold the original tavern in 1901 to Enos Mount, who moved it across the street next to his store. Then construction began on the present hotel. On August 17, 1901, the *Jamesburg Record* announced:

The new hotel being erected by James Vandenberg at Applegarth is rapidly approaching completion and will be ready for occupancy by October 1. It is up-to-date in every particular, having steam heat, acetylene gas and furnished with water throughout. Mr. Vandenberg is one of the popular hosts of this county.

The following month the \$5,000 hotel was opened with a great celebration. In 1914 James Courtney, the present proprietor, took it over and changed the name to Courtney's Hotel. The name Red Tavern is perpetuated in a more recent tavern a mile away on the State highway. The original Red Tavern was destroyed by fire in 1914.

A store was established in Red Tavern in 1857 by Cook and Jones. Major Hooper and Baird Applegate owned it in succession until 1882, when Anthony Applegate took it over, followed by V. Perrine Applegate. In 1888 Harrison Rogers was the storekeeper, and his successor was Leonard Smith, from whom Enos Mount purchased

it in 1899. In 1909 C. W. Hoagland became Applegarth's storekeeper until 1914, when the fire wiped out the store and the old tavern next to it. All that remains now of the tavern is its barn, converted into a residence. Applegarth's wheelwright shop was operated until about ten years ago by the same family, father and son, for almost 100 years. Elison Evernham established the business in 1838, and his son George succeeded as owner in 1900. The faded red shed that housed the works still stands. There also was a blacksmith shop as early as the wheelwright establishment, but no record of its numerous owners remains.

In 1888 the *Jamesburg Record* referred to a basket factory in Applegarth. It seems that some time during the 1860's or 1870's a small group of Pineys, interbred woodsmen from South Jersey's pine forests, migrated northward and settled on farms in the southern portion of the township. They made and sold oyster baskets to Keyport's oystermen. The baskets were hand woven from oak and hickory splints (from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch wide, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, and from 6 to 14 feet long) cut in the surrounding woodlands. The splints were steamed in long rectangular boxes to make them pliable, then kept in hot water while the weaving process was performed. Baskets were being made in the neighborhood of Applegarth as late as 1916.

Applegarth's only other business enterprise was a distillery. This



*Left: Distillery Built in 1862,
Applegarth.*

*Below: Courtney's Hotel,
Applegarth.*



was built in 1862 by Charles P. Mount, who ran it for about ten years, when Joseph Chamberlain purchased it. Finally, in 1876 it was acquired by S. D. Vandenberg, and it has since been owned by the various hotel proprietors. The distillery is no longer in operation, its machinery having recently been purchased by the Lairds, leading distillers of New Jersey applejack. In its time it turned out some very tasty peach and apple brandy. Many of the old-time farmers still remember carting loads of apples down to the distillery in the fall.

All that remains of Applegarth's palmy days is an old wooden apple-weighing machine which stands in solitary decrepitude in the weeds at the side of the road. Farther up the same road the faded dirty-red sheds which housed the distillery molder away amidst rusting machinery, huge, weather-beaten wooden tubs, and twisted pipes.

The hotel still puts up an imposing front and struggles bravely to carry on the tradition of hospitality that the hamlet has maintained since Revolutionary days, when Red Tavern was a well-known hostelry. For the rest, Applegarth is four or five small, unpretentious frame dwellings.

Hoffman Station

Hoffman Station's principal industry was a hay press established about 1893 by Perrine, Gartz and Company. By 1897 the Jamesburg newspaper reported that the company was planning to extend "its flourishing businesses" by opening a store. The store, however, probably did not materialize, since the company soon sold out and did not regain control until 1899. In the interim two other "parties have had control of the press and all did a good business, but the original company have once more obtained control . . . The local Manager will be Samuel E. Perrine, son of Thomas E. Perrine, one of the company. The company will have a depot at Newark in charge of Mr. Louis Gartz." In 1904 the Prospect Plains hay press purchased the Hoffman Station property and operated it until it burned in 1917.

A gas station is the village's only business now. The community, on one of the township's back roads, consists of a few small dwellings scattered along both sides of about half a mile of narrow dirt road.

Union Valley

Union Valley began its business career with a store opened in 1856 by Samuel Mace. During the next decade Edgar Reed, Charles Perrine, George Wader and William Doty operated the business in succession. Apparently the store was vacant for a number of years, for Clayton in his history of Middlesex County reports in 1882 that "The old store building was still standing at the intersection of the Cranbury and Englishtown roads." Some time in the latter part of the 19th century it was reopened and remained in operation until about 1925. The last storekeeper was Mrs. Charles Joslin.

Today, on the road from Half Acre, the first thing that strikes the eye is the huge sign proclaiming the Union Valley Tavern. This, the hamlet's only business, has been operated by John Ghiandoni since April, 1936. Prior to that it was a refreshment stand until 1934, when a liquor license was obtained by William Sears, owner of the property. The tavern is the site of an earlier garage. The Ghiandoni residence next to the tavern housed the Joslin store.

Beyond the tavern, at the crossroads, a gleaming white picket fence surrounds the graveyard of the burned Methodist Protestant Church. In front, facing the road, stands the massive boulder bearing a plaque commemorating the church. A few pleasant residences and farmhouses complete the community.

Determining the population of Union Valley, or of any other hamlet in the township, is merely a matter of putting the question to any inhabitant, who will name and count off on his fingers the neighboring families. In Union Valley the number amounts to about twelve.

Outcalt

Outcalt, site of the early Weechqueechly and of the subsequent snuff and hominy mills, slumbered peacefully on the banks of the Manalapan until 1897. In May of that year the inhabitants were electrified by the news that the Rhenish Westphalian Powder Company, a large German munitions concern, had bought from James Buckelew's Sons 600 acres on which to build a manufacturing village. The tract was just south of Outcalt Crossing, at the lower end of what was to become Lake Marguerite. "It is said," the *Jamesburg Record* commented, "the concern will at once lay out a

village, cut the timber and drain and grade their land. This will take a large number of men and give employment to many idle hands." A contract was made with Freeholder Pownall to erect factory buildings worth \$20,000, and hundreds of workers applied for jobs.

The reason given by the German firm for opening a factory in America was to obtain this country's market and to avoid the Dingley tariff. "The property was bought," the Jamesburg paper said, "to bust the American powder trust's plans in foreign lands and to make them pay tribute to Herr Krupp of Essen, Germany." In short, the erection of the plant was an effort to frighten the Americans out of the European market.

The Germans won. Said the *Fredonian* of September 20, 1897:

American trusts have a few lessons to learn. For once the sluggish Teutonic brain has outwitted the quick American one to the tune of nearly fifty thousand dollars . . . All they have to show for their money are the standing walls of a dozen or more incomplete buildings. In addition . . . the German Powder Trust is to have a yearly royalty, the only conditions required of it being that it shall confine its operations to its own country.

About six months ago, Augustus Korn, representing the Rhenish Westphalian Explosives Company of Cologne, Germany, came to this country and after inspecting several sites for the location of a branch—he purchased a tract of land . . . Here, he said, it was proposed to establish a new industrial colony which would give employment for fully two thousand workmen. In two months he received instructions to proceed with the work of erecting the plant.

Several weeks ago a cablegram ordered the suspension of all building operations . . .

So ended Outcalt's first great promise of becoming an industrial center. It did not have to wait long, however, until a promise equally great loomed on the horizon. On March 10, 1905, the *Jamesburg Record* reported:

. . . the residents of this section are rejoicing over the joyful tidings that a boom has been started here. Fred L. Buckelew, representing the estate of the Buckelew family disposed of 1800 acres at Outcalt's Crossing. The land includes the tract owned by the Smokeless Powder Co. Bernard Macfadden, the well known professor of physical culture, of N. Y. C., will establish a physical culture settlement on the site. He will at once move his printing plant to the new colony.

During his two-year stay Macfadden gave Outcalt a liberal education in physical culture, plain and fancy healing, and high pressure real estate promotion. According to his prospectus, Outcalt was the culmination of his search for the healthiest place in the country in which to establish his Physical Culture City.

In a promotional leaflet he announced that he had begun to build his home there, and that the Bernarr Macfadden Institute, "a school for training physical culture specialists, has just been



*Bernarr Macfadden's
Physical Culture City, c.
1905. Top: Inmates.
Center: Printing Shop
where Physical Culture
Magazine was printed.
Bottom: Health Home.*

built, and is now open for business." Among the improvements he promised "for an early date" were a trolley line and a post office (neither of which materialized). "Although we lease the lots," the leaflet explained, "the transfer is practically a sale, as the lease is for a term of over a thousand years." The leases contained some curious clauses:

The said premises shall never be used or occupied for a slaughter house, distillery, tannery, soap factory, glue factory, gunpowder factory, or bone boiling establishment, or a saloon, or a place for the manufacture, sale, or use of spiritous, vinous, or malt and other intoxicating drinks or beverages; or a cigarette, cigar or tobacco shop; or an opium joint or gambling establishment; or house of ill fame or assignation; or a pharmacy, apothecary shop or drug store; or a place for the manufacture or sale of drugs or medicines of any kind, or for the sale of pork, lamb, veal, deer, or other animal meats; or for the sale of corsets, high heel shoes or other injurious articles of dress; or for the office or residence of a medical doctor, surgeon, or other person using drugs in his practice.

When the Physical Culture City of tent dwellers was at the height of its development it consisted of the institute to train

apostles to spread the Macfadden gospel; a "health home"; a plant where Macfadden's publication, *Physical Culture*, was printed; and Physical Culture City Land Company, which laid out a city and sold lots.

Many lots were sold, but few dwellings were built. The few settlers who came to Physical Culture City were entertained by the sight of men running around in trunks and women in bloomers. Mornings they were awakened by a bell which summoned the physical culturists to setting-up exercises. Anyone who wished could join the drill. Newcomers were startled to come upon bodiless heads sticking up out of the mud of the peaceful woodland but were reassured when the heads emerged with the normal complement of body.

The natives, of course, disapproved strenuously of the goings-on. The neighborhood was becoming the objective for Sunday sight-seers. The name Outcalt called on the train from Trenton or New York was the signal for windows to go up and heads to pop out for a glimpse of the possessors of bodies beautiful. Outcalt objected; Spotswood objected, and refused to move its postoffice to a point more convenient for the mailing of Macfadden's magazine.

Macfadden's experiment came to an end abruptly when his magazine was accused of carrying obscene material through the mail. It is said that Anthony Comstock led the attack, after he had been aroused by a serialized story entitled *Wild Oats*. Subtitles included "Sowing and Reaping"; "The Confessions of a Lost Soul, Shedding Light on the Road to Ruin and Death"; "Immorality Brings Weakness of Body, Mind, and Soul" and "The Wages of Sin Is Death." The author was Macfadden's friend, John R. Caryette, creator of that blood-and-thunder detective, Nick Carter. Designed to be the first gun in Macfadden's crusade against venereal diseases, the melodramatic tale centered around the life of one Reginald Barnes Carter, born with a taint of venereal disease from upper-crust parents who did not want him. The story traced his youth and young manhood, showing how his education in sex came from the stable groom, companions in school and from obscene books. Young Carter's erotic career began with seduction at the age of 16, and continued with everything that the primrose path offered at the beginning of this century. The story reached a climax when the harassed Reginald goes insane and manages to have himself cremated alive.

In 1907 Macfadden was arrested on a Federal warrant charging him with sending lewd and obscene matter through the mails. He was tried and sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$2,000. While an appeal was pending, Macfadden went on a lecture

tour to win public sympathy. Eventually Attorney General Wickersham recommended a pardon, pointing out that the statute in question was intended to bar pornography.

That was the beginning of the end, for within a short time Macfadden and all his works had moved from Outcalt. All that re-



Outcalt Today

mained was the land company, which still controls much of Outcalt's real estate. During Macfadden's reign there were several stores on the fringe of the settlement, near the present Indrikson's Garage on the Spotswood-Helmetta road. Indrikson ran a restaurant and provision store. Nearby was the Physical Culture City Grocery Co., a small country store. At the present time the only business establishment is the garage.

After Macfadden's departure the community returned to its dormant state. In 1921 an attempt was made to utilize the huge, barnlike health home for rehabilitating World War veterans. About 35 men were installed there, and left largely to shift for themselves. There was talk of starting a factory with government help, but the experiment failed and the men drifted away.

In 1928, 40 of the 50 property owners organized the Community Center. Its objectives were the installation of electricity, road improvement and the erection of a community house. The women's auxiliary raised the \$510 that the power company demanded for bringing in electricity in 1931. In 1936 a modest two-room community house was erected on lots purchased from the land company. The occasion was celebrated by the composition of a verse:

Built amid the pine and oak on brush-strewn sands,
A symbol of Co-operation by many willing hands;
Within its portals, may there always be good cheer,
A mutual spirit of friendship, as we assemble here.

Outcalt has Macfadden to thank for laying out the residential area so that streets alternate with whole blocks of woodland, thus preserving to some extent the locality's original rustic quality. The settlement is almost exclusively a summer vacation place, with 55 to 60 houses, mostly bungalows, scattered among the trees. There are about 150 residents during the summer, while ten families make their permanent homes there. There are excellent wide dirt roads curving pleasantly through the woodland.

Monroe Township

According to Barber and Howe the business of Monroe Township in 1844 consisted of eight stores, a paper factory, four grist-mills and 18 sawmills, with the capital in manufacture placed at \$109,900.

There are records of other sporadic businesses coming and going in other parts of the township. In 1840, for example, there is a record of a freeholders' meeting at Perrine's Tavern in Matchaponix to discuss the placing of a bridge near Perrine's sawmill. At Mounts Mills in the early part of the 19th century there was a fulling mill owned by a man named Blaine. In 1898 John Applegate of Gravel Hill was reported as running a milk route to the creamery at Cranbury. Two years later, according to the *Jamesburg Record*:

The genius of our hamlet (Gravel Hill) is at last being appreciated and our mechanics are being sought out as some of the best in their lines. George Petty and his men have gone to Avon, N. J., on the seashore to build cottages. They have rented a house and will cook their own meals and stay there until their work is done. Joel Clayton helped to cart their household goods down to the shore on Tuesday.

Texas had Adler's General Store until 1902, when a fire burned it to the ground.

At present the township's business establishments consist, besides those mentioned under their respective communities, of ten gasoline stations, about a dozen taverns scattered through the countryside, a few boarding houses around Matchaponix, a children's summer camp near Half Acre, a few specialized breeding farms, greenhouses and Forsgate Farms.

Forsgate Farms, a large, modern dairy near Prospect Plains, is the largest industry. John A. Forster, a wealthy insurance man

from Hackensack, established it in 1918 to breed Percherons. By 1928 the dairy and vegetable production of his farm had grown to the point where he opened two cafeterias in Newark and a market in New Brunswick as outlets for his produce. When he died in 1931 the trustees for his widow installed commercial dairy equipment and built up a herd of 400 head which now produce about 3,200 quarts of milk a day. The company actually distributes 10,000 quarts, buying the balance from nearby farmers. The farm also has a flock of 10,000 leghorn chickens.

Forsgate Farms employs 75 persons in winter and nearly 150 in summer. They distribute within a radius of 35 miles, operating local routes with their own trucks, and selling elsewhere through subdealers.

The township has recently had a number of real estate developments on wasteland and timberland. One was Northwest Asbury Park Heights near Hoffman Station where a brief boom was conducted in 1900. Obviously the name was chosen to delude the public into thinking it was near the seashore. There is a story of a customer asking "Where's the ocean?" To which the salesman, with a sweep of the arm that embraced half the horizon—replied, "Right over the bluff there,"—neglecting to add "about thirty miles."

Another development, known as Middlesex Downs, was used as bait in a book-selling scheme. Every purchaser of a \$100 set was given a lot free.

The only real estate development that succeeded in founding a community is the section known as Appleby Estate, which lies half in Spotswood and half in the township. Gordon and J. Randolph Appleby of Spotswood, the developers, purchased several tracts of land and sold lots in 1925. They succeeded in attracting many middle-class white-collar workers from Jersey City, Newark and Elizabeth who came because of the low prices and easy terms. When



Forsgate Farms Dairy

a number of lots had been sold the Applebys formed the Spotswood Finance Co. in 1927 for the purpose of building homes.

The community started as a summer colony, but the depression and the consequent unemployment among the ranks of white-collar workers resulted in the conversion of many summer bungalows into permanent homes. In the past 11 years about 120 homes have been built, and the population is about 325. The homes are principally of the bungalow type with electric lights and telephone service; water is supplied by individual wells, and gas from commercially packed tanks.

Until 1900 Matchaponix was considered merely woodland, not suited to farming. A few hardy farmers tilled the soil unsuccessfully. Matchaponix found its vocation in 1900 when, according to the *Record*:

Gradually, but surely, the Hebrews of New York City are settling in the neighborhood of Texas, sandy, pine woods section back of Spotswood. These people are also making a summer resort of the place and this year two more large boarding houses are being erected there . . .

There are now about half a dozen resorts catering to Jewish vacationists from New York.

TRANSPORTATION

The post road from Amboy to Burlington, one of the main routes from New York to Philadelphia, had a stage stop at a Cranbury tavern early in the 18th century. Subsequently, coaches were also stopping at the Half Way House (Rhode Hall) and at a Spotswood inn.

As early as 1707 regular fortnightly trips were being made between Amboy and Burlington by a Mr. Dellaman who held a patent to transport goods on this route. A stage road from Cranbury passed through Old Church and Red Tavern (Applegarth) to the old Willow Tree Tavern in Clarksburg, Monmouth County, in 1734. At Clarksburg the road branched to Philadelphia and the shore. Just prior to the Revolution regular weekly stages to New York and Philadelphia were rumbling through the Township. Fares fluctuated with the price of feed, for in 1772 an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* notified passengers of a rise in fare due to the high cost of grain.

In October, 1804, James Abrahams, owner of a gristmill at Matchaponix, and William Wikoff obtained a franchise from the legislature to develop navigation on Matchaponix Creek, which flowed to the South River tidewater. The act set prices at 36 cents for every cord of wood transported, 50 cents for rafts of logs, 25 cents for small craft and 50 cents for large boats. It also specified that "all bridges shall be made so high that any boat without a mast may at all times pass under, and the passage between the posts shall be sixteen feet wide." Whether the corporation functioned and boats plied the creek is not known. The only tangible evidence of the company is the act itself and a stock certificate issued to Cornelius Johnson on September 17, 1805, for five shares in the Matchaponix Navigation Company.

Modern rail transportation began in 1830 with the building of

the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Following the general course of the turnpike from Bordentown to Amboy, it cut across future Monroe Township southwest to northeast. In 1830 Robert and Edwin Stevens (sons of John Stevens, who built and operated the first locomotive in this country on a circular track at his Hoboken estate in 1824) were chosen president and treasurer, respectively.

The first cars, drawn by two horses, were put on the railroad September 19, 1832, when they ran from Bordentown to Hightstown and back as a demonstration for the directors and their friends. Three months later the first passengers traveled from Bordentown to South Amboy, a distance of 34 miles, in a little less than three hours, with three changes of horses. Early in September of 1831 the locomotive *John Bull*, made in England, gave a successful demonstration at Bordentown, much to the chagrin of horse and grain dealers. Its tender loaded with pine wood for fuel and with a whisky cask of water, the spluttering engine presented a fearsome sight as its wheels gripped the rails and it set off—sparks flying and black smoke billowing from the ponderous stack. It was not until 1833, however, that steam replaced the horse-drawn railroad cars.

An amusing contemporary description of railroad travel appeared in the *Monmouth Democrat* of February 19, 1835, under the heading: "An Account of Col. Crockett's Tour to the North and Down East, in the year of our Lord, 1834."

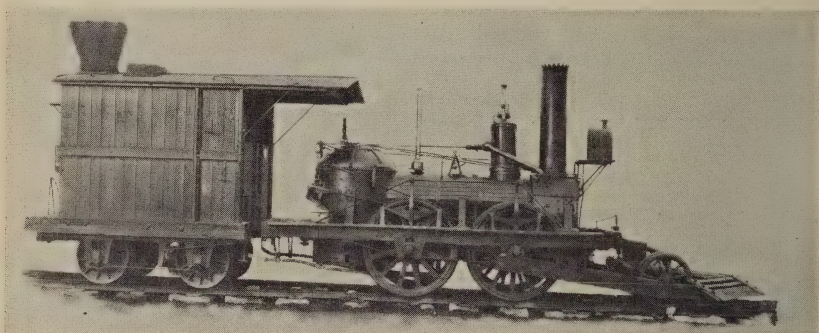
The locomotive: This was a clean, new sight to me; about a dozen big stages hung on one machine, and start up hill. After a good deal of fuss we all got seated, and moved slowly off; the engine wheezing as if she had the tizzich. By and by she began to take short breaths, and away we went with a blue streak after us. The whole distance is 17 miles, and it was run in 55 minutes. While it was whizzing along I burst out laughing. One of the passengers asked me what it was. 'Why,' I said, 'It's no wonder the fellow's horses run off.' A wagon had just crossed the railroad when the engine hove in sight with the cars attached. It was growing dark and the sparks were flying in all directions. His horses ran off, broke his wagon, and smashed his combustibles into atoms. He run to a house for help, and when they asked him what scared his horses, he said he did not just know, but it must be hell in harness.

In 1876 Charles S. Worts of Jamesburg, a well-known local railroad man, was in charge of the Pennsylvania Railroad exhibit at the Centennial in Philadelphia. He ran the *John Bull* on a short track at the fair grounds. The famous old locomotive was driven to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and is now exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

Proprietors of stage lines waged a losing battle against "steam roads." They warned travelers that injury and death awaited them in the trains, whose engines poured forth ashes and cinders to burn

and scar them and whose strap rails, when loosened, curled and cut through the floor of the coaches.

In 1831 the Camden and Amboy consolidated with the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, forming a powerful monopoly. James Buckelew, who was intensely interested in the railroad's development, obtained in 1840 the contract for team towing on the Delaware and Raritan Canal. By 1867, the year he sold his entire interest to the Canal Company for something over \$90,000, he was supplying 700 mules for use on the towpaths between Bordentown and New Brunswick.



"John Bull," First Locomotive to Run on Camden and Amboy Railroad

Buckelew and Nathaniel S. Rue opened in 1845 a stage line between Freehold and Jamesburg to connect with the trains for New York. It enjoyed a lively summer business with shore traffic from Philadelphia to Long Branch.

On March 12, 1851, the Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad was incorporated with capital stock of \$300,000 divided into \$100 shares. John C. Cox, Henry Bennett, Joseph Combs, Aaron Gulick and Richard McDowell were the incorporators. The right of way of the stage line was given to the railroad, and regular service started July 18, 1853. This road, under the supervision of Isaac S. Buckelew, was considered one of the best managed in the country. In its first three years it carried 50,427 passengers and 25,247 tons of freight. The locomotive ran 28,049 miles and consumed 1,000 cords of wood, some of which was supplied by James Buckelew, who was chosen a director of the road in 1856. In 1883 the *Jamesburg Record* reported that "shore trains were running full over the Freehold and Jamesburg road."

Two years later a car with a smoking compartment was added. In May, 1886, the downtown station at Jamesburg was opened,

much to the delight of patrons who could thus avoid the scramble for tickets while the train waited at the upper station. Hoffman's Station and Tracy Station were flag stops in the township between Jamesburg and Freehold. The road, together with the Camden and Amboy, was eventually absorbed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Milton I. Voorhees of Jamesburg owns a Bible that belonged to the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Written on the blank pages between the Testaments are various items, mostly about the local railroad men. The first reports that "Camden and Amboy were united in bonds of oak and chestnut and bound together in iron bands." There is a chronological list of local employees: in 1856 Charles C. Miller was telegraph operator and William Mortimer, station agent. In 1863 Matthew Eler (of Prospect Plains), who had gone to work for the railroad in 1855, came to Jamesburg as switchman. In 1864, when traffic was heavy rushing troops to the South, Joseph Farr replaced George Shults as telegraph operator and William J. Courter became night operator. In 1865, the last year of the Civil War, Courter became day operator and C. C.



*Section of Original Tracks of Camden and Amboy Railroad,
Outside Jamesburg, Showing Stone Ties*

Lyman, night operator. I. S. Voorhees came to Jamesburg as express agent and assistant agent in 1878, resigning in 1886. That year his son, Milton I. Voorhees, became passenger agent and L. R. Somers, freight and express agent. M. I. Voorhees, who retired in 1892, was replaced by W. H. Lokerson, who served 34 years until his retirement in 1926.



Original Jamesburg Railroad Station

The Camden and Amboy was leased to the Pennsylvania in 1871. It transported large quantities of coal to the important coal port of South Amboy. Early in the 1880's Jamesburg felt the need of a livery service for the convenience of traveling agents and visitors to the State Home for Boys. The demand was quickly filled by Frank Perrine, who opened a livery stable and started a baggage delivery service.

Prospect Plains shipped 485 carloads of farm produce in 1898. During a boom at the turn of the century the passenger station was remodeled and refurnished. Today only two passenger trains, one east in the morning and one west in the evening, are run.

About 1900 a new form of transportation, the automobile, was heralded in the columns of the *Jamesburg Record* in this fashion:

When one of our writers described the rushing automobile as the "Flying Devil" he graphically pictured the new roadway horror that had come into

our American rural life. We believe that autos are sometimes owned by gentlemen (although rarely) and we should be glad to encourage the recurrence of this fact. The foreign auto owner is the man we are after. He is arrogant, lawless and heartless. On Sunday, a red devil auto rushed past a funeral procession at Hightstown and nearly caused a panic.

Despite the sour looks and remarks of the populace the countryside was eventually overrun with "flying devils". Today nearly every farmer in Monroe owns a pleasure car and a truck.

Monroe is served by an independent bus line from South River to Jamesburg which makes eight round trips daily, nine on Saturday and four on Sunday. The line connects at South River with buses for New York, New Brunswick, Atlantic City and other points. The bus lines between New Brunswick and Hightstown on US 130 pass near the township line at Cranbury and Forsgate Farms. A bus line from Trenton to the shore stops in the township at Red Tavern Inn at the intersection of State 33 and the Applegarth Road.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Before America's social life was standardized by the movies, radio, automobiles and bridge, the church supplied most of the religious, cultural and social needs of Monroe's farmer folk. On Sunday the family piled into the springless farm wagon and jolted over winding dirt roads to church in Spotswood or Cranbury. Before and after the service, news and bits of gossip were exchanged and farm problems discussed. This, aside from a barn or house raising, or a hog killing, constituted the social life of the majority of Monroe's inhabitants. Between Sundays the farmers relied on the taverns at Rhode Hall, Spotswood, Cranbury and Red Tavern to supply them with news of the outside world brought by travelers, newspapers or mail.

Everyone worked. The farm homes of the Colonial and post-Revolutionary periods were self-sustaining units. Cattle and hogs furnished milk, meat and shoe leather; vegetables were stored in cold cellars for winter use, and the barns bulged with hay and feed for the livestock. The farmer's wife churned butter, made clothes and molded candles. If she could spare an hour she surprised her men folk with peppermint cordial, made from 1½ ounces of peppermint oil, 12 gallons of good spirits, 30 pounds of sugar and four dozen eggs. Slaves and bound-boys (apprentices) worked on the farms side by side with the farmer's own children. The latter attended the primitive schools at Spotswood, Cranbury, Matchaponix or Rhode Hall during the winter months.

In the early years of the 19th century a new force, the Sunday School, entered the lives of Monroe's inhabitants. It became a powerful influence in the community, culminating in an institution, the Sunday School Convention, which seems to have been peculiar to Jamesburg.

Sunday Schools

In the 1820's a Sunday School was organized at the Reformed Dutch Church in Spotswood. Seventeen years later Billy West, who owned the tavern at Buckelew's Mills (Jamesburg), held a Sunday School class in the local school which stood on the road to English-town. In 1847, when James Buckelew built a brick school for the town, a Presbyterian Sunday School class was formed there with Alexander Redmond as the superintendent. John Van Doren was superintendent of the Sunday School started at the Bergen's Mills schoolhouse in 1853. Twenty years later the Spotswood Methodist Episcopal Church had a Sunday School which many Monroe children attended. Fifty young people in the St. James Church in Jamesburg were organized in 1879 under John Pierce, first superintendent of the Sunday School.

There were nine Sunday School groups with 838 pupils in Monroe Township in 1882. John D. Buckelew was superintendent of the Jamesburg Presbyterian Sunday School; James H. Eastman, of the Jamesburg Union group; David Okerson, of Pleasant Grove; Edward Livezey, of Dey Grove; C. E. Hoagland, of Prospect Plains; George McDowell, of Gravel Hill; John M. Perrine, at Old Church; G. F. Davison, at Monroe and Rev. J. Leuppie, at Union Valley.

In 1884 a class of 16 was formed at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamesburg, and by the end of the year there were 90 enrolled. The First Baptist Church in Jamesburg started a Sunday School in 1885. There was a Sunday School at Wyckoff's Mills in 1887, for a notice in a paper of that year reports its regular union picnic in J. A. Applegate's Grove.

From 1869 to 1899 the Jamesburg Sunday School Convention was the most eagerly awaited of all social events. Under the leadership of John D. Buckelew and Franklin Dye (later secretary of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture) the superintendents of all the township's Sunday Schools arranged for the first convention to be held at Nelson Thompson's woods, just north of the Union Valley Church, on September 4, 1866. Later the conventions were held in Wigwam Grove, Jamesburg. The original conventions were conducted like Sunday School picnics, with the usual accompaniments of games, gossip and mountains of food. Gradually the programs were extended to include more serious matters. The leaders gave a great deal of attention to exchanging ideas on policies and administration. Religious and educational speeches came to take an important place in the proceedings.



Sunday School, Gravel Hill

The convention began to draw people from a constantly widening area. Crowds from all over Middlesex and parts of Somerset and Monmouth Counties gathered in the Grove at Jamesburg. Lunch and other preparations were made on the preceding day. The wise traveled the dusty roads in the cool of the early morning. Parking the horse and buggy was a problem, for toward the end of its career as many as 5,000 attended the convention. Why the convention was discontinued after 33 years the record does not say. There was an innovation in the proceedings of the last year (1899) when the morning session was devoted to the practical affairs of farm life. Franklin Dye, one of the founders, Prof. E. B. Voorhees of the Rutgers Experiment Station and a Mrs. Brown of the Farmers' Institute spoke at the farmers' session.

In 1902 the historic buildings of the convention were sold; the Wigwam went to C. M. Davison for \$25. The sale netted about \$100, which was given to the Jamesburg Presbyterian Church.

Of all the early Sunday Schools, the only one remaining is at Gravel Hill. It was built in 1895 on ground donated by George E.

Pettie and was at first used by the Methodists. Today there are 29 adults and children of all denominations on its roll. The Bible class is in charge of William Vogel, assisted by Oscar Davison. Albert Davison teaches the junior section and Mrs. Oscar Davison, the primary group. The superintendents of the Sunday School since its beginning have been Edward Livezey, Elmer Jamieson, Charles Jamieson and Sylvanus Davison.

The Harvest Home

A source of revenue for both church and Sunday School was the harvest home, a great social event in agricultural communities, celebrating the completion of the harvest. Today Monroe attends the harvest homes held at Tennent, Hightstown, Perrineville, Clarksburg, Smithburg and Dayton, for there are none within the township itself. A dinner is served, sometimes to as many as 800 persons. At Tennent huge gatherings are served in shifts at long tables in the yard. There is usually a band and sometimes a dance platform. Farmers formerly furnished the meat for the dinner, but today they give money. The vegetables and cakes are still donated.

Early Organizations

Along with other changes, the coming of the Camden and Amboy Railroad in 1832 brought a gradual change in social life. After the farmers had overcome their dislike for this new-fangled invention which threaded its way through their fields, leaving fires in its wake and frightening their horses, they accepted the livelier world which improved transportation afforded.

Organizations of a non-religious type began to appear; lodges, literary societies and the grange. One of the first organizations of an intellectual nature was the Jamesburg Farmers' and Mechanics' Debating Society, formed April 6, 1850, which met in the school-house at Jamesburg. John D. Buckelew, William H. Courter and J. Britton drafted the constitution for the society. It elected Stephen Van Wickle, president; James Lemming, vice-president; James Redmond, secretary, and Courter, treasurer. The initial debate was on the question, "Which is the more useful member of society, the farmer or the mechanic?" Opened in the affirmative by Buckelew, in the negative by Courter, it was "decided in the

negative," according to the enigmatic record in the minutes. The first report of the treasurer listed the initiation fees of 19 members at \$2.37½ and expenditures for stationery, candles and a pair of snuffers at \$.37½, leaving \$2 to the credit of the society. After debating such trick questions as "Which is more useful to man, the hand or the tongue?"; "Which is more useful to mankind, horses or cattle?"; the society decided to hold a public meeting with addresses by its members. John D. Buckelew was to speak on "The Country of Washington"; F. Lemuel Buckelew, "Why do we not excel in oratory?" William H. Courter on "The Nobility of Labor"; and I. S. Buckelew on "Industry necessary to form the orator." Evidently the public was not impressed, for at the next meeting it was moved and passed that: "hereafter the meetings of the Society be private until further Notice" in order that the members might become more accustomed to speaking before appearing again in public.

The last entry in the minute book is dated February 4, 1860. The question debated was "Whether the increased facilities between the United States and Europe be favorable to this country." It was decided in the affirmative. The problem adopted for the following discussion was "Whether the signs of the times indicate the *disolution* of the Union."

In the ten recorded years of its existence the society touched on a wide variety of subjects: "Which deserves the most praise, Christopher Columbus for discovering America or Washington for defending it?"; "Which exercises the greater influence over man, women or men?"; and "A Man taking a pig to Market had a rope to his neck which had it the man or the rope?" After this entry a penciled note informs, "both, of course—decided in the affirmative."

Agricultural Societies

The Jamesburg Agricultural Society, organized April 27, 1852, grew out of the progressive spirit of a group including James Buckelew, Alexander Redmond, Aaron Gulick, Samuel R. Forman, Charles Middleton, Thomas Snedeker, Ralph Stults, Frederick Farr and Stephen Van Wickle. They had organized a fair in the preceding year for the sale, purchase and exhibition of farm stock, implements and produce. James Buckelew was president of the Society, and Joseph C. Magee and William H. Courter were secretaries.

More than 5,000 persons attended the fair on September 27, 1854. The fair grounds were laid out at the junction of the Camden

and Amboy and Freehold and Jamesburg railroads. East of the depot a spacious tent was erected for the display of women's handiwork. Around the edges of the field were numerous pens of livestock. In the center of the field was a one-third-mile track for a riding exhibition. Nearby were oyster, soda water, beer, ice cream and candy stands, Bogg's Traveling Daguerreotype Saloon and a band of Negro minstrels. The fairgrounds were filled at an early hour with exhibitors arranging their displays, and as the morning wore on the extra trains from Freehold, Hightstown, Amboy, Spotswood and Old Bridge brought visitors. Every type of vehicle from a sulky to a farm wagon and an old fashioned stagecoach brought people in from the countryside.

Horses, mules (especially the fine specimens owned by James Buckelew), cows, pigs and poultry were exhibited; there were displays of Irish and sweet potatoes, corn, wheat, rye and all kinds of garden vegetables. In the huge tent were samples of butter, preserved quinces, citrons and gooseberries; blackberry, raspberry, honey and tomato vines; cakes, lamp mats, woolen coverlids, carpet rugs, ottomans and artificial flowers. Merchants exhibited all types of farm machinery, including a miniature sawmill made by Lambert Eckerson.

Miss Conover of Freehold Township, Miss Buckelew of Jamesburg and Miss Fown of Uniontown, attired in black basques, colored skirts and feathered fur hats, gave a horseback riding exhibition that drew the attention of the crowd away from the livestock and produce.

By the fourth season the Jamesburg fair had passed its glory, due, probably, to the State Fair at Camden. The New Brunswick *Fredonian* reports: "there were not more than two thousand people on the grounds at any time. Last year there were double that number. The exhibition was meagre in all departments." After one more attempt the Agricultural Society abandoned the annual fair and confined itself to the distribution of seeds and farm literature.

The Grange movement reached Monroe's farmers with the forming of Pioneer Grange No. 1, organized at New Brunswick or Stelton on January 24, 1872, by Oliver Hudson Kelley, one of the founders and first secretary of the National Grange. Samuel Blish of New Brunswick was one of the Pioneer's early masters. After the close of its career in Stelton the association was reorganized under the same name at Prospect Plains, with John Edgar Stults as master and Charles Edwards, secretary. Edwards was forced to resign because of his wife's insistence that he be home at nine o'clock,

although there is no record of any unseemly frivolities on the part of the grange members. He was replaced by Howard J. Butcher.

Through the grange the members bought fertilizers and groceries, and in 1883 stoves were added to the list. Meetings were held in the hall over the general store at Prospect Plains until the turn of the century, when the grange moved to Cranbury. It was regarded as a first-class matrimonial bureau. Many a happy marriage resulted from friendships made at grange meetings. In 1910 there were 231 members.

When the rent at Odd Fellows Hall in Cranbury was raised the grange moved to Dayton in South Brunswick Township, where it gathered in the room over Errickson's store until it outgrew the place. The grange celebrated its golden anniversary on January 24, 1922, with an all-day session at the Presbyterian Church in Dayton with between 300 and 400 grangers attending. Now, with a membership of 250, it holds its semi-monthly meetings in the new school at Dayton. Programs include debates on agricultural subjects, speeches by representatives of the agricultural college and farm organizations, social hours and entertainments by visiting grange members. The younger members read essays and take part in the entertainments. Pioneer Grange has gone as far as Burlington County to give programs on visiting nights.

The grange is a secret organization. The executive committee includes Ancil Davison, Russell C. Spratford and Fred Carlson. The master's wife is usually Ceres, who has charge of refreshments served at alternate meetings. Flora provides flowers for the meetings. Members are chosen by election, and officers progress up the ladder to master. The present officers of Pioneer Grange are: Henry J. Pollitt, master; Lloyd Smith, overseer; Mrs. Ida Dock, chaplain; Mrs. Russell Spratford, lecturer; Robert Manser, steward; Arnold Stout, assistant steward; Mrs. Henry J. Pollitt, Ceres; Mrs. Dorothy Baier, Pomona; Miss Dorothy Oretel, Flora; Ancil Davison, Jr., secretary; William S. Duncan, treasurer; Howard Van Dyke, Jr., gatekeeper.

Other farm groups, including Rhode Hall Farmers' Alliance in 1892 and Monroe Farmers' Club in 1895, have flourished and disappeared, but the grange still holds the farmers' allegiance.

Lodges and Literature

In the 1870's Jamesburg became lodge conscious. First there was Fidelity Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which was

formed on July 6, 1870, with William H. Courter, noble grand; Charles P. Clymer, vice grand; Charles E. Limming, secretary; and Isaac Buckelew, treasurer. On April 6, 1871, came Matilda Lodge No. 28; its officers were John H. Heath, noble grand; Sarah E. Smock, vice-grand; William H. Courter, secretary; and Jennie Smock, treasurer. In 1879 Encampment No. 51 was formed with Charles S. Brown, J. D. Browne, George S. Courter, Frank H. Dey, John H. Heath, John N. Heath, F. McNamee, William G. Mount, Fred Nodocker, P. V. Petty, Wilton Petty and George Van Artsdalen as charter members.

Prospect Plains welcomed the Knights of Pythias with the establishment of Monroe Lodge on February 4, 1892. Thirty-three members were initiated. Officers included C. B. Stults, past chancellor; Charles H. Edwards, chancellor commander; George M. Duncan, vice-chancellor; John B. Stults, master at arms; John H. Mount, master of the exchequer; C. C. Stults, master of finance; C. B. Hoagland, prelate; John M. Lucas, keeper of records and seals; E. W. Clayton, inner guard; and F. Farr, outer guard. A dinner for 75 knights was served at Abijah Applegate's residence. During its few years of existence the lodge held festivals, harvest homes and oyster suppers in C. G. Edwards' Maple Grove at Prospect Plains, but finally disbanded in 1897.

Efforts to bring to the citizens of Jamesburg the benefits of the cultural life met with an early rebuff. In 1884 the Jamesburg Literary Society, which had functioned for two years, opened a free reading room. This was closed in the fall of 1885 because of lack of interest and finances. Nevertheless, on December 12 of the same year the Jamesburg Library Association was organized, with Rev. B. S. Everitt, president; F. L. Buckelew, vice president; G. A. Schultz, secretary, and T. W. Hill, treasurer. The library of 300 volumes was opened at Dr. Suydam's drug store under the supervision of George Hoffman. A \$2 membership entitled a person to borrow a book a week. Nonmembers could borrow a book a week for \$1.

At Pleasant Hill in 1887 there was a flourishing Literary and Social Circle of 40 members. The programs of the meetings, held at homes of the members, included recitations, music and papers followed by a social hour of games and refreshments. At each meeting a collection was taken for the benefit of the Sabbath School at Pleasant Hill.

A singing school at Monroe was reported "attractive as ever"

in the *Jamesburg Record* of February 3, 1883. That year, too, members of the Jamesburg Cornet Band practiced long hours under the baton of Elmer Rogers of Hightstown. There was a Glee Club in Jamesburg in 1886 and in 1903 Gravel Hill had a local orchestra with Miss Lizzie Reid, Frank Walker and Fred Jamison.

Sport

The growth of a commercial class and improved methods of farming that left more time for recreation fostered an interest in athletics.

Glass-ball shooting became popular at Prospect Plains about 1888. R. M. Vandenberg's Hotel had a pigeon-shooting box, where live and clay birds were used.

Rhode Hall nurtured a famous trapshooter of the day, Ferdinand V. Van Dyke, born in 1858. He became crack shot of the neighborhood, and in 1892 he won the world's trapshooting championship at London. He earned the title of "Wizard" and was proclaimed the "best all around shot in the world" after an exhibition at Madison Square Garden, where he represented the Winchester Arms Co. in tests made for the United States Army.

The blacksmith shop at Prospect Plains was headquarters for quoits contests, which were also a popular form of amusement at Sunday School picnics. Abijah Applegate was the recognized champion.

At Jamesburg a tennis and archery club was formed in 1885 with 11 members. F. B. Everett and D. H. Downs were the promoters of the project, and the court was laid out in Mr. Downs' yard.

"Ring your bell! Blow your whistle! On brakes or turn—bicycle season is here again and lovers of the swift silent steeds are casting wistful eyes on the new 1895 models." The bicycle craze swept Monroe, too.

Five-mile and half-mile trotting races were held at Bergen's Driving Park in Prospect Plains, sporting center of the township. Bergen's private half-mile track was built during the last decade of the 19th century for the convenience of John Applegate, who trained trotters and kept horses in Bergen's stables. Crowds came to watch the matches and to enjoy food and drink at the Railroad House.

Social Life Today

With the 20th century came two great boons to transportation and communication—the automobile and the telephone. By 1909 the Farmers and Traders Telephone Company was operating a telephone system in the vicinity of Prospect Plains, Cranbury Station, Union Valley and Applegarth. The automobile began to appear in Monroe around 1902. What was a day's trip in the horse and buggy era is now a matter of a short ride over concrete, macadam or improved dirt roads. On Saturday night the family goes to the movies at Princeton, Jamesburg, Hightstown, New Brunswick or South River. A shopping trip to Newark or Trenton is easily made.

The township's social life has been broadened by the radio and by the increased leisure resulting from modern labor-saving devices. Except for the type of work, the farmer's routine differs very little from that of his urban neighbor. He listens to the same radio programs, sees the same movies, drives the same kind of car and reads the same newspaper.

Most Monroe people today find their social life in the nearby towns of Jamesburg, Freehold, Hightstown and New Brunswick. There are, however, a few organizations and activities in Monroe. The Rhode Hall Community Club, which is about ten years old, meets the first Thursday evening of each month at the old school in Rhode Hall. It holds pot luck suppers, dances and parties for people of all ages. The money raised is used for the upkeep of the building. Mrs. George Baker is president of the organization.

Early in the 1920's the Extension Service in Agricultural and Home Economics, operated by the New Jersey College of Agriculture at New Brunswick, began functioning in Monroe. Local leaders went to New Brunswick for training and then held class groups in the township. Cold-pack canning, millinery and kitchen remodeling were among the first projects. Groups usually met at private homes, until the Rhode Hall Community Hall was started and classes gathered there. Mrs. Courtney Brown of Rhode Hall, an ardent student, learned enough at extension meetings to develop a marketable floor polish, which helped to put her son through college. She started to can tomato juice when she heard of its value at an extension meeting; last year she shipped 4,000 bottles to all parts of the country, including President Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park.

There have been classes in millinery, chair caneing, meal planning, child care, clothing, and the making of slip covers. Last summer a 4H Club was organized in the township. The county home



Visiting Over the Fence, Half Acre

demonstration agent, Miss Margaret McCoy, now has charge of extension work in Monroe.

The Republican Club of Monroe was formed in 1932 as a women's club under the leadership of Mrs. R. R. Vandenberg of Prospect Plains. Later men were invited to join. Meetings are held once a month at the Monroe town hall. Between 50 and 60 attend regularly, each paying ten cents toward the cost of the coffee, cake and other refreshments. During campaigns, candidates address the club, but otherwise it is a social group. There are 100 members; the officers are: Mrs. Olga Wilson, president; Mrs. Laura Dey, vice president; R. Maitland Vandenberg, secretary; Mrs. Robert Graff, treasurer.

The Democratic Club was organized in March, 1937. An earlier club with Willis McBride as president had been in existence for about two years. The present club, starting with 15, has increased its membership to 146 in less than a year. It comprises two districts—the first includes Prospect Plains, Applegarth, Gravel Hill, Hoffman's Station and part of Tracy Station; the second covers Matchaponix, lower Spotswood and the section surrounding Jamesburg. Monthly meetings are held alternately in the town hall at

Prospect Plains and in the Monroe police headquarters. The program is partly political and partly social. Money is raised at dances and parties. The officers are: John W. O'Keefe, president; Wilbur C. Box, vice president; Nathan Gubnitzsky, secretary; George Tracy, treasurer; Felix Morales, standard bearer.

The Helping Hand Society, organized in 1913 as an auxiliary of the Union Valley Methodist Protestant Church, now has 28 members. The proceeds from the sale of hand work and suppers were used to help the upkeep of the church. Mrs. Charles Dey was the first president. When the church closed in 1920, the society was discontinued. In 1933 it was revived, admitting both men and women to membership. Funds raised by the organization went toward the upkeep of the cemetery, which had fallen into neglect after the church had been destroyed by fire in 1925. In the spring of 1937, at the suggestion of Mrs. Herbert Vandenberg, the church was commemorated by a stone bearing a bronze plaque, the gift of Bessie Morse. Officers of the society in 1938 are: Mrs. Herbert Vandenberg, president; Henry Reid, vice president; Mary Porter, secretary; Mrs. Charles Dey, treasurer.

SCHOOLS

The first known school within the bound of Monroe Township was David Brainerd's Indian school at Bethel, near Jamesburg. It was built of timber from the surrounding forests, cut and hewn by the Indians. Job Strong, a visitor in 1748, noted "the diligent attention of the children in school and their proficiency in reading, writing and catechisms of divers sorts." The institution lasted about fourteen years.

There must have been a school in Cranbury in 1767, for a Philadelphia newspaper of that date mentions a teacher there—Henry Moore. Whether the schools at Rhode Hall and Matchaponix date back to the 18th century is not known. In the early part of the 19th century, however, there were log pay-schools in these two settlements. They were conducted by itinerant teachers who were paid in board and lodging at the homes of the farmers whose children received instruction.

An early history recounts a lock-out at the Matchaponix school. One winter day the teacher arrived at the log building and found that the pupils had barred the door from the inside. Undaunted, he climbed the roof and sat on the chimney in an effort to smoke them out. This strategy was unsuccessful, for some of the larger boys pushed a pole up the flue and catapulted the unsuspecting school-teacher into the snow. The tale does not reveal whether the scholars gained a vacation that day.

Joshua Pittinger, a relative of the Perrines, taught at Spotswood in 1806, using a small house as a school. From various sources come the names of the Cranbury teachers during the first decade of the 19th century: John Campbell, John Van Kirk, and a Mr. Lowry. Nothing is known about the school. An interesting glimpse into an early educational policy is afforded by the apprentice papers of Mat-



Gravel Hill School, c. 1885

Left to Right: Craig Polhemus, Alfred Davison, Albert Reid, Joseph M. Perrine, Benjamin Dey, William Tilton, Alexander Robinson, Anna Hausman, Walter Jameson, Ed Thompson, Cora Hausman, Sally Stonaker. Standing on Steps: Lizzie Stoney, Libby Wyckoff, Lizzie McDowell. Seated on Steps: Marianne Tilton, Anna Amanda Tilton, Addie Clayton, Maggie Wyckoff, Ella Rue, Bertha Hausman, Kate Polhemus, Miss Rebecca Allen (teacher), Luella Perrine, Emmeline Murray

thias Johnson, a pioneer farmer in Monroe. In 1814 a boy was bound to him to learn farming and in the contract is the phrase "he shall have as much schooling as shall enable him to read, write and be well-versed in the first four rules of arithmetic."

Under apprentice laws the master was obliged to see that his apprentice had schooling enough to read and write. In 1818 another apprentice to Johnson was to have "night schooling"; still another "three-months of school"; and as late as 1840 Matthias Johnson, who was evidently never without a boy, was to furnish him with "four quarters of schooling under a competent teacher."

In 1821 Gravel Hill had a school, for there is a record of the

articles of agreement drawn between James McChesney, schoolmaster, and 18 inhabitants of that locality:

Said McChesney doth propose teaching school in spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic. School is to commence October 22, 1821 and to continue six months. The subscribers agree to pay McChesney \$1.75 for each scholar, at the end of three months; to keep the house in good repair and to find an equal proportion of fuel when needed.

The paper was signed by Norman Walton, Nathan Blackford, William Rue, Richard Sutphin, John Perrine, Joseph Reed, Peter Mount, Reuben Johnson, Alex Laird, John L. Johnson, John Huffman, James Abraham, Charles Matchet, George Suydam, Enoch Dey, John Paxton, Henry Applegate and William H. Rogers.

Spotswood and Cranbury were educational centers in the early part of the 19th century. In 1830 the Rev. W. C. Ward opened a private school at Spotswood and for a time it was looked upon as a rival of Rutgers. In 1844 the Rev. J. G. Van Liew conducted a private school with 60 scholars, and in the same year Cranbury had two academies connected with churches.

On a map of Jamesburg in 1832 (known at that date as Gordon's Mills) a school is shown on the road to Englishtown. Later it served as a Sunday School, conducted by Billy West, the tavernkeeper. A dispute in 1847 over the admission of a Negro boy raised the ire of James Buckalew, who contended that the boy should be educated. Losing the argument, Mr. Buckelew built a brick school for the town. There was a proposal to call the school "Rough and Ready," but it was finally named "Jamesburg" in honor of its founder — hence the town's name.

By 1857 there were 14 school districts in Monroe Township. They were under the supervision of a school superintendent whose duties, according to a bill sent by James Ives, a supervisor of that period, were numerous. He examined and licensed teachers who received a yearly salary of \$200 to \$275, visited the schools and reported conditions to the State superintendent, apportioned school money, put up school notices and made reports to the county. In Mr. Ives' report of July, 1864, he listed the number of pupils (5 to 18 years old) in each of the 16 school districts in Monroe as follows: Spotswood, 2; Matchaponix, 100; Monroe, 97; Jamesburg, 172; Rhode Hall, 10; Prospect Plains, 130; Gravel Hill, 130; Bergen Mills, 3; Old Church, 120; Pleasant Grove, 68; Wyckoff Mills, 87; Cranbury first church, 59; Pleasant Hill, 16; Cranbury second church, 31; Grove district, 84; Manalapan, 3. The latter two had been added since 1857.

Between 1857 and 1882, as sections of Monroe Township split off to become parts of new municipalities, the number of school districts was reduced to eight: Jamesburg, Dey's Grove, Gravel Hill, Matchaponix, Monroe, Old Church, Pleasant Grove and Prospect Plains. Total valuation of school property in 1882 was estimated at \$7,300. There were five women teachers and four men, each with a class of at least 40 pupils. The men received an average monthly salary of \$32 and the women \$30.50 for a school year of eight months.

The schools of that time were all one-roomers; a stove in the center of the room furnished heat to those who sat near it, while the remainder shivered. Escaping gas caused many a sick stomach. At long desks on hard benches, the boys on one side and the girls on the other, from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon the three R's were learned to the tune of a hickory stick. The students were classed by readers (doubtless the McGuffey). Health education was unknown; the unsanitary pail and dipper could be found in every school. In the evening by the light of oil lamps, people gathered at the school for box sociables, spelling bees and Christmas exercises. Jamesburg and Matchaponix boasted small libraries in their schools.

A new school building, with a cupola and bell and a substantial fence around the grounds, was opened at Rhode Hall in January, 1872. In 1873, the Buckelews opened a day and boarding school at Jamesburg, where music, art, elocution, Latin, mathematics, French and German were offered. Board and tuition were advertised at \$50 per term. The school was housed in a two-story wooden structure near the lake. The classroom was on the ground floor, with a gymnasium above. The last record of the school is in 1888, when Miss A. B. Avery was in charge.

Schools, with no apparatus other than a pail of water, were at the mercy of fires. In 1884 Jamesburg lost the brick school built by the Buckelews, and in January, 1897, the Monroe schoolhouse caught fire from a defective flue. Only the organ and some books were salvaged. The school board was criticized for not providing "a pump or a bucket."

Middlesex County was the first in the State to have a rule, proposed by County Superintendent Willis, requiring all schools to fly the Stars and Stripes. Between 1890 and 1903 items in the *Jamesburg Record* report the raising of poles and flags at Gravel Hill, Rhode Hall and Prospect Plains. In 1903 Matchaponix remained the only school without a flag.



School No. 2, Applegarth Road

The school board was plunged into turmoil when in 1894 a new school law required that textbooks be furnished free of charge to the pupils. Heretofore each student supplied his own books. Money for the books was to come from the township treasury and not from the State fund. In an effort to save money, the Monroe board proposed to buy old books back from each family, thereby bringing a storm of protest from those who wanted new texts.

Public School Day was something of an institution in the late 1890's. The eight schools met at Wigwam Grove in Jamesburg under the management of the Teachers' Professional Circle and the Board of Education. Exercises by the students, games, singing and refreshments kept young heads buzzing for days with memories of the occasion.

Admiral Dewey and other Spanish-American War heroes found frequent place on the school calendar. A paper, *Sunshine*, published by the students at Prospect Plains in 1900 was filled with essays on the hero of Manila Bay.

In 1903 the teachers organized a Culture Club under the direction of W. H. Connors, supervising principal of Monroe.

By 1903 there was a growing sentiment for a central school in Monroe. The Prospect Plains school was overcrowded and an eyesore to the community; Matchaponix had 4 pupils; Dey Grove, 9; and Pleasant Valley, 12. Hiring teachers for so few students was expensive business. Four years of agitation brought success, and in

1907 Perrine and Buckelew of Jamesburg were given a contract to build a \$10,000 central school at Half Acre. It was opened in September of that year. There were four rooms, with two grades in each. This was the last school building built in Monroe until 1936, when the two present consolidated brick schools were opened. Each of these buildings, of modified Georgian Colonial style, has eight classrooms, an auditorium, an office and a teachers' room. They were built with the aid of a PWA grant at a total cost of \$150,000. School No. 1 is on the Jamesburg-Englishtown road. Set back from the road on a knoll, it commands a good view of the surrounding country. School No. 2 is on the Applegarth road. Fourteen teachers and 425 pupils are transported over ten bus routes to the schools. Each building has a student safety patrol trained by the New Jersey State Police. Miss Dorothy Furback of New Brunswick, school nurse, is a Works Progress Administration worker.

In March, 1938, the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health of the State Department of Health initiated a nursing service in Monroe and Madison Townships, combining these in one district. The schools are the headquarters for the work. The workers are graduate registered nurses with special training in child health. They instruct mothers in the importance of prenatal care and of proper care and management of healthy babies. Their work keeps them in touch with the family through the preschool period, when they give advice on parent-child relationship, the importance of immunization, vaccination, quarantine and medical attention. Through her work with the school child the nurse continues to keep in touch with the family.

On March, 1937, two Parent-Teacher Associations were organized. They are raising money through game and card parties, rummage sales, peach festivals and dances to equip a kitchen in each school for serving hot lunches to the children. Officers of the P. T. A. of School No. 1 are: Mrs. Frederick Lifshey, president; Mrs. William Walters, first vice president; Nathan Gubnitzsky, second vice president; Miss Catherine McDowell, secretary; Miss Wyckoff Rowe, treasurer. Monthly meetings are held by the 120 members. Officers of the P. T. A. of School No. 2 are: Mrs. George Baker, president; Mrs. George Wilson, first vice president; Mrs. Herbert Barrett, second vice president; Mrs. Albert Crocker, secretary; Lindsey Whitson, treasurer. There are 74 members.

School officers are: Raymond E. Voorhees, supervising principal; Richard T. Bagg, principal of School No. 1; and Maude A. Smythe, principal of School No. 2. The board of education consists of James

H. Tilton, president; George Mount, district clerk; Henry Reid, G. Duer Platt, Harold Wilson, Nelson Vandenberg, William Butcher, Frank Stillwell, Mrs. Courtney Brown, R. Maitland Vandenberg, custodian of school money, and Anthony Belluscio, truant officer.

NEW JERSEY STATE HOME FOR BOYS

The New Jersey State Home for Boys, pleasantly situated about two miles outside of Jamesburg on 889 acres of farmland and lawns, looks more like a university campus than a penal institution. A tree-lined driveway leads to a central group of buildings—the administration building, a church, employees' quarters, a dining hall and a hospital. The raspberry-red brick and 19th century architecture of some of the older buildings contrast with the lighter hues and simpler lines of the more modern ones. The rest of the institution's 50 buildings are spread over the spacious grounds. They include 12 large red brick dormitory buildings of modern design, a large school, and various vocational and farm buildings. Each of the dormitories houses from 30 to 45 boys in charge of a cottage father and mother. A large playroom in the basement and a sitting room on the main floor provide for social activities.

New Jersey was one of the pioneers in reforming the penal procedure for minors. Governor Joel Parker, who realized the danger of sending youths guilty of minor offenses to the State prison, was instrumental in founding the institution in 1867. Five hundred acres of land known as the Buckelew farm were purchased and the present administration building erected to serve as the reform school. Within the first year it was filled to capacity with 50 boys who were kept busy with maintenance work in the building, cultivation of the farm and construction of a drainage system.

The first boy to arrive was a 12-year-old orphan, committed for "petty thieving and lying." The medical report and investigation of the boy's environment were sketchy, and the personal history was derived solely from the subject with no apparent attempt to check. The youngster answered "no" when asked "Have you drank ardent spirits?" His answers to other questions and his record at the institution led the officials to believe that in respects other than his spe-

cific crime "he was a good boy . . . kind in his disposition, obedient and ready to work." Unscientific as was the procedure and the report, William's later history confirmed the diagnosis.

A scientific technique of rehabilitation was supplied in 1918 with the establishment of the nonpolitical State Department of Institutions and Agencies, which immediately made available the funds for reforms indicated by modern psychology, psychiatry and pedagogy.

In the Home today there are about 540 boys with an average chronological age of 14.3 and a mental age of 11.2 years. The majority come from overcrowded industrial areas such as Camden, Trenton, Elizabeth and Paterson. The Negro slums of the larger cities contribute generously to the 41 percent Negro population of the Home. They have been committed mainly for petty larceny linked with truancy, but the underlying causes of their delinquency are poverty, unstable home conditions chiefly because of unstable employment, lack of sufficient parental supervision due to the necessity for both parents working, and the absence of any effective program of youth training in the community. The low mentality and inferior physical condition which prevail among the boys are results of poverty and malnutrition operating over several generations. The Home attempts to adjust the boy and equip him to live and work in the level of society from which he came. The task is difficult and the institution cannot be blamed entirely for the proportion of failure. The poolroom and street corner environment to which the boys return does not help them maintain their morale. Despite this handicap, 51 percent of the subjects do not come into conflict with the law again in the 6- to 10-year period following release; another 16% have never been guilty of major infractions.

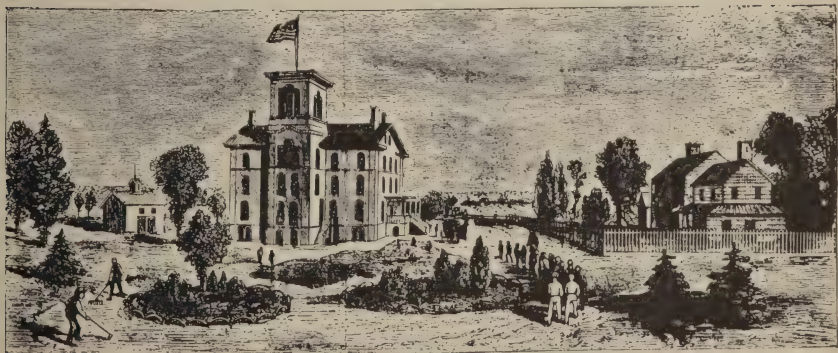
The institution has laboriously worked out a method of individualized treatment based on a system of classification, New Jersey's contribution to institutional therapy for juvenile delinquency. The classification committee consists of a physician-psychiatrist, two psychologists, the directors of the vocational and academic curricula, the supervisor of cottages and the assistant superintendent, who presides. At each weekly meeting from 15 to 20 boys are interviewed by this group. Some come to have their progress reviewed and necessary program adjustments made; others are recent arrivals who, after a month's observation, are to have their programs outlined.

The moral and spiritual training given to all the boys is directed by chaplains and workers of the various religions and augmented by membership in the Boy Scouts. Placement in the proper educational

level is decided on the basis of individual ability. The academic school provides instruction to the 10th grade, and the vocational school, with facilities for teaching 24 different vocations, is divided into a trade section for older boys of adequate mental ability and an industrial section for the retarded. The vocational education facilities include completely equipped woodworking, tailoring, shoemaking, printing, machine and metal working shops, and the institution's laundry, kitchen, dining room and maintenance departments, which are used as practical laboratories.

Theoretically, a boy who responds to treatment can go through the carefully graduated steps of the rehabilitation process in ten months: after one month of observation he may earn sufficient credits with three months of training in each of the three succeeding phases to make him eligible for release. Actually this rarely occurs; the average stay is 16½ months.

A large measure of credit for the Home's efficiency must go to its distinguished superintendent, Calvin Derrick, who has devoted his entire life to the problem of delinquency. As chairman of the committee sponsored by the National Conference of Social Workers to make a three-year study (1919-21) causes of rural juvenile delinquency, Derrick earned a national reputation. In 1930 President Hoover invited him to serve in the White House Conference, Section IV, Delinquency. In 1934 he was elected President of the American Prison Association. He is author of the centralized parole plan, now in operation in New Jersey, and of the credit marking system and procedure for parole now used by New York City's Department of Correction. He is consultant to cities and states throughout the country upon penal and delinquency problems.



State Home for Boys, c. 1866. The Farmhouse at the Right Was Used As a Prison During the French and Indian Wars

CHURCHES

Monroe Township, settled by fugitives from religious persecution for whom the church was the center of communal life, is today without a single religious edifice. The churches were in the larger centers—Cranbury, Jamesburg, Spotswood — which, as they increased in size, broke away from the original township.

The first house of worship in the section was built about 1734 at Old Church. This was a union church, serving the Presbyterians, the Dutch, the Friends, the French Huguenots and the people of the "Church of England persuasion."

Joseph Morgan, then pastor of Old Tennent Church at Freehold, wrote to Cotton Mather: "formerly there had been no Presbyterian within twenty miles of Freehold on the north, but now new congregations are formed in Allentown and Cranbury." That year Samuel Blair was called to serve the little flock of Presbyterians in the union church.

This church functioned for about four years, when conflict arose between the various sects. The Presbyterians sold their share and made plans to build their own edifice.

First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury

The break-up of the union church led to the foundation of today's First Presbyterian Church at Cranbury. A tract of land adjoining the mill was purchased for £2 on July 19, 1739, from Kort Van Vorhys and Thomas Story and conveyed in a deed of trust to Nicholas Steavens and Peter Perrine, elders, and John Brown and William Magee, deacons. The following year the building was erected on the highest point of land in the old cemetery, south of the brook.

The mill and the public highway, King George's road, from Eliz-



First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury

abethtown to Philadelphia, were making an important settlement of Cranbury.

For the first four years the little congregation limped along without a regular pastor. The New Brunswick Presbytery records in its minutes that at almost every meeting "Cranbury supplicated for supplies." William Tennent preached in the church, and it is likely that the famed Methodist evangelist, George Whitefield, was a guest.

On February 21, 1750, during the pastorate of the Rev. Charles McKnight, the Cranbury church was incorporated with the Presbyterian Churches of Monmouth County, Old Tennent, Allentown and Shrewsbury under a royal charter from George II.

By 1788 the congregation had outgrown its old quarters and erected a new church on the site of the old one. Fifty years later there was a disagreement over the erection of another building, re-

sulting in the formation of the Second Presbyterian Church. The first church was remodeled with many improvements, including a stove. "It was no longer necessary for the women worshippers to keep themselves warm by means of a footwarmer"—a tin-lined box containing live coals covered with ashes.

The two churches went their separate ways for nearly 100 years. When Joseph Ellsworth Curry, who had served the church 40 years, died in an automobile accident in 1934, Frank B. Everitt, then pastor of the Second Church held combined services. In 1935 the two congregations were again united under his direction in the original church.

Cranbury's First Presbyterian Church has flat white clapboards relieved by tall, rectangular, stained-glass windows. Further contrast is supplied by green shuttering and shingling. Its graceful proportions are set off by the stone-dotted green of the extensive cemetery in the rear. The building is a charming example of Classic Revival work, with two columns in antis and pilastered corners. The wooden spire rising from the ridge is so well designed that it suggests the hand of James McComb, the lower portion being almost identical with the lantern on Old Queen's at Rutgers. Brackets of the main cornice are Georgian, not yet having turned to pure Classical dentils.

The simple interior is high and spacious. The white and cream of walls and ceilings are relieved by dark trim on the white pews and enriched by the deep brown carpeting and pew cushions. A shallow balcony extends across the back and halfway down each side. The chancel is formed by a large niche, and the pulpit is flanked by graceful Ionic columns supporting a plain architrave and frieze. At either side of the platform are railed enclosures for the organ and piano.

The following pastors have served the church:

Charles McKnight	1744-1762
Thomas Smith	1762-1790
Gilbert T. Snowden	1790-1798
Georg Spafford Woodhull	1798-1820
Symmes Cleves Henry	1820-1857
Joseph Gaston Symmes	1857-1894
Joseph Ellsworth Curry	1894-1934
Frank B. Everitt	1935-1937
John David Spratt	1937

Church organizations are: Women's Missionary Society, Sunshine Circle, Stitch and Chatter, Helping Hand Society, Christian Endeavor, Junior Christian Endeavor.

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, Spotswood

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church has a 200-year history. The present church was built in 1849. The dignified gray painted structure is set in extensive grounds, surrounded by a low brick wall. A gravel path leads under a heavy wooden arch to the cemetery. The building was designed by Frank Wills, who came to this country from England in the 19th century. The treatment of the wooden wall surfaces with vertical cleats finished at the top with gothic heads is extremely unusual, suggesting gothic tracery laid over the walls. The wooden buttresses have been most carefully detailed to simulate stone, and clearly show Wills' European training.

The interior is narrow, but long and high — an effect accented by the vaulted roof and the slender timbers which support it. The light drifts in through narrow stained-glass windows on the buff walls and golden oak trim and furnishings. A large stained-glass window behind the altar brightens the chancel. The rectors of St. Peter's have taken great pains to collect and preserve the church's history. John M. Ward, rector from 1822 to 1835, set the tradition by compiling a history from sources many of which are no longer available. The Rev. W. C. Morgan brought that history up to date with an excellent sketch in the 1932 *Washington Bicentennial Year Book of St. Peter's Church*.

It is likely that the first services in Spotswood were held here as early as 1703 by that "indefagitable itinerant," the Rev. John Talbot of Burlington, who wrote in that year: "I have gone up and down in East and West Jersey preaching and baptizing and preparing the way for several churches there"; and in 1705: "I have gone the rounds several times from Burlington to Amboy." Talbot was succeeded by another itinerant, the Rev. William Skinner, a missionary at Amboy whose first recorded stop at Spotswood was about 1727. Mr. Skinner mentions talk of building a church as early as 1743 and "hopes to officiate therein next summer." The building, although started in 1756, was not ready for use until 1759, one year too late to fulfill Mr. Skinner's hopes. He died in 1758. Andrew Smith was appointed to supervise the erection of the church. The Rev. Robert McKean, who was ordained in 1757 to the mission of New Brunswick by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and who later was elected first president of the New Jersey Medical Society, succeeded Mr. Skinner. He reported in 1758 that



St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, Spotswood

he had been to South River, and found that the people forming that congregation had raised a handsome wooden church in a small village called Spotswood, and the inhabitants of the parts adjacent to South River are chiefly descendants of members of the Church of England, who came from Staten Island, and seem very desirous of being instructed in the religion of their fathers.

In 1761 McKean reported further that "Spotswood is more flourishing than ever, so that they have been forced to erect a gallery in the church to contain the numbers usually assembling."

In that year John Wetherill and Andrew Smith were elected wardens, and John Barkley Jr., Fred Buckelew, James Day, Matthias

Johnson, James and John Johnston, Henry Moore, Thomas Newton,[†] John Perrine Jr., Joseph Rue, Joseph Rue Jr., and Samuel Throckmorton were chosen vestrymen. Seven years later Peter Corne, one of the proprietors of the Perry and Corne iron foundry which stood along the Manalapan, was one of the vestrymen.

St. Peter's procured its royal charter in 1773 under the hand and seal of William Franklin, Governor of New Jersey and illegitimate son of Benjamin Franklin. The charter, still in the archives of the parish, is faded beyond legibility. It stipulates that there shall be paid yearly, to His Majesty, the King, or his heirs and successors, through his Receiver General, at Perth Amboy, "one pepper corn, if the same be legally demanded." Among the incorporators were Andrew Carnagie (Lord Rosehill), John Lewis Johnston, Fred Buckelew, John Rue, Joseph Perrine, David Stout and Samuel Neilson, all freeholders "inhabiting the town of Spotswood within the south ward of the City of Perth Amboy in the County of Middlesex." Lord Rosehill and John L. Johnston were named wardens.

The Perrines, Rues Buckelews, Stouts, Neilsons and others were conscious of the distinction lent to their parish by the presence of Lord Rosehill, who lived in Spotswood for a number of years. An old account tells of Spotswood's elite waiting at the church door at the close of the service on the first Sunday after their arrival to be presented to Lord Rosehill and his lady. Rosehill returned to England upon the outbreak of the Revolution.

During the pastorate of John M. Ward, the parish was considerably strengthened. In addition to his other duties, the pastor taught school in a building erected on the church grounds in 1826. The present church bell, originally purchased for the school, was cast by James Allaire at the Allaire Works near Freehold in 1827.

In 1831, when the Camden and Amboy Railroad was being constructed, the church sold the company right of way through its grounds for \$100. Bishop Doane records that "On Thursday, September 4th, 1849, I laid the cornerstone of St. Peter's Church, Spotswood. The Rev. Mr. Phillips, the rector-elect, delivered the address. The new structure is from a beautiful plan by Mr. Frank Wills. It takes the place of one erected almost a century ago. None of our parishes have been more steadfast in their adherence to the old ways, and in none is a better love manifested for the ministry and institutions of the church."

The church was consecrated in 1854, and Mr. Phillips was installed as rector. The story of St. Peter's from this point on is mainly

a record of improvements: the chapel was erected in 1888 and a new organ installed in 1893. Bequests from wealthy parishioners were of primary assistance.

The missionaries and rectors who have served the church are:

William Skinner	1758
Robert McKean	1760-1762
Mr. Spencer	1766-1767
William Ayres	1768-1799
Andrew Fowler	1799-1800
Mr. Cotton	1800-1802
John Croes, D.D.	1802-1813
John M. Ward	1822-1835
Jehu Jones	1836
Thomas Tansur	1837-1838
Robert Croes	1838-1840
Isaac Smith	1842-1847
Joseph F. Phillips	1847-1858
John Stearns, M.D.	1864
W. K. Stewart	1865-1869
S. Compton	1869-1870
Frederick M. Bird	1870-1874
L. S. Russell	1874-1880
Charles M. Parkman	1881-1883
Augustine W. Cornell	1883-1889
W. E. Daw	1899-1901
Robert Bell	1901-1903
Francis H. Smith	1903-1910
W. E. Daw	1910-1918
W. L. Phillips	1919-1924
W. T. Morgan	1924

The church organizations are: The Altar Guild, St. Peter's Parish Guild, St. Mary's Guild, St. Peter's Branch of the Women's Auxiliary.

Reformed Dutch Church, Spotswood

Spotswood's Reformed Dutch Church, built in 1866, stands among large trees and extensive lawns dotted with gravestones. The lawn is enclosed by a low metal railing set in concrete blocks.

In the spring of 1938 the church's white clapboards were covered with wide asbestos strips which gave it a dull, slightly off-white appearance. The building shows the last vestiges of the Classic Revival period in the arched windows and door of the front facade, and the rise of the so-called Victorian Gothic feeling in the upper windows and in the exaggerated gables and colonnettes that form the base of the squat spire roof. Stained-glass windows break the flat white walls of the tower and of the main structure.

The walls and the high arched roof of the spacious interior are completely covered with dark wooden slatting, which is arranged in herringbone design on the walls. The pews and cushions have the



Reformed Dutch Church, Spotswood

same dark color. The pervading brown is enriched by red carpets and plush draperies. The pulpit stands on a large platform backed by the row of gilded organ pipes; an American flag projects on its pole from the wall in the corner. The huge auditorium creaks ominously in the wind.

The predecessor of the present structure was built in August, 1821. The Rev. John Ludlow organized the church with the following members: Jacob R. Hardenbergh, Cornelius Johnson, Joseph Gulick, Daniel Dean and Jonathan Combs Jr. It was dedicated on August 21 by the Rev. John H. Livingston.

Edward Johnson, present assessor of Monroe Township, has the

original deed for a pew purchased for \$50 by his grandfather, Matthias, in 1832:

... do grant, bargain and sell, and convey and conform unto said Matthias Johnson a certain Pew in the Reformed Dutch Church of Spotswood, known numbered in a plan or draught of said church by No. 24. To have and to hold said pew upon condition his heir and assigns shall yearly and every year pay the pew rent assessed on said pew.

Signed, HENRY L. RICE, *Pastor*

When in 1866 the present structure was erected to replace the smaller one, the congregation consisted of 80 members and the following officers: Henry Van Dyke, Joseph Johnson, H. Smith and Thomas Smith, elders; Benjamin Conover and Isaac Perdun, deacons; Lewis E. Skinner, treasurer; Robert Frishmuth, secretary.

The following pastors have served the church:

Isaac A. Van Hook	1820-1821
John McClure	1822-1825
Henry L. Rice	1825-1834
John C. Van Liew	1834-1841
William R. S. Betts	1842-1845
William Knight	1846-1847
John H. Manning	1847-1854
Albertus Vanderwater	1855-1867
Ralph Willis	1868-1880
Stephen J. Harmeling	1881-1883
Cyril Spaulding	1883-1890
Thomas Morton	1890-1891
H. F. Harris	1891-1893
W. H. Van Doren	1894-1895
J. O. Bayles	1895-1901
Paul J. Strohauer	1902-1905
F. T. B. Reynolds	1905-1911
T. C. Easton	1911-1919
C. E. Bloodgood	1920-1923
Alexander Paxson	1923-1924
C. M. Severance	1924-1929
C. E. Corwin	1929-1937
Daniel Upham Smith	1937

Church organizations are: Ladies' Aid Society, Women's Missionary Society, Junior League of Service.

Methodist Protestant Church, Union Valley

In 1925 the last remaining of the old churches of Monroe Township was destroyed by fire, and with it the records. All that remains is the rectangular churchyard with its few stones, surrounded by a white picket fence. A bronze plaque mounted on a granite boulder was placed on the approximate site by the Helping Hand Society in 1937. The date on the stone places establishment of the church at 1790. The exact date is unknown.



Top: Methodist Protestant Church, Union Valley, Burned in 1925. Right: Cemetery and Memorial Marking Site of Church.



The earliest record of a congregation at Union Valley is the account of a circuit preacher, "Daddy" Perkins, who visited Union Valley and organized a class, consisting of Brittain and Eliza Clayton, Daniel I., David, Mary and Sarah Ann Dey, Alfred and Matilda Jamison, Caroline and Eliza Laning, Lydia Robbins and Maria Rue.

During the first year, Perkins led weekly services at the house of Daniel I. Dey. In the ensuing five years, the meetings were less frequent, and usually under local preachers. In 1846, a small building, erected through subscription for about \$500, served the community's needs until a larger church was built some years later.

In the county records there is a certificate of organization of the church's board of trustees, dated April 29, 1848, and signed by Elias D. Stultz, John Hill and Daniel I. Dey.

There is some question as to the date of building the second church. The plaque states that a second church was built in 1858. Clayton, the local historian, gives 1866-67, and still another source gives 1865. The weight of evidence, however, points to somewhere between 1858 and 1860, since the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is said to have been held there in 1860 on "temporary benches as the church was not quite finished." The church, according to those who claim the earlier date, was dedicated in 1860 with a sermon by the Rev. J. K. Helmbold, "and a sermon it was! Everyone attentive and not a dry eye in the crowd."

The Rev. Elias D. Stultz became the first pastor. The member-

ship by 1882 had grown to 80, but during the first decades of the 20th century there was a gradual decline until 1920, when the church had to be closed because the small congregation was unable to support it. Sunday School, however, continued until 1921. The township minutes note that \$1,500 was raised to purchase the building and make it into a community house, but the township and the heirs of the property could not agree on terms.

The following men were pastors (dates unavailable):

C. Ellerson
H. Watson
T. T. Heiss
J. K. Freed
T. B. Castle
R. M. Waple
Jacob Leuppie
William Irons
Isaac McDowell

W. B. Wallace
D. G. Leith
Thomas B. Appleget
John Adams
George D. Jones
H. H. Hampton
O. L. Jones
N. E. Webb
Ellery Coons
W. Huckel

William Vogel, a layman, preached intermittently from 1918 until the church closed in 1920.

Presbyterian Church, Jamesburg

The pioneer church of Jamesburg is the Presbyterian, organized June 6, 1854, with 11 charter members: John C. Vandever, Hannah Vandever, Samuel Marryott, Ann Maria Marryott, James Mount, Mahala Mount, M. C. (Mrs. James) Buckelew, C. T. Applegate, Sarah Davison, J. B. Johnson and David C. Bastedo.

The sprawling gray church stands on a slight rise among old trees and lovely lawns, its proportions distorted by additions and replacements. The building has some striking points of similarity to the earlier Episcopal Church in Spotswood, particularly noticeable in the treatment of the wall surfaces. The Victorian Gothic here has superseded all traces of the earlier Georgian and Classic Revival spirit. The cornices are heavily bracketed, the roof line is broken with unnecessary dormers and gables, and the porch and spire are detailed with columns and railings that show an uncertainty as to whether they are gothic or romanesque in origin.

The two squat, square towers of unequal height, the porch between them, and the protruding wing at the rear form interesting angles. Stained-glass windows line the side walls and brighten the fanlights within the arches over the doors.

The rectangular auditorium is spacious. Walls of light buff, pews

of golden brown pine, and pew cushions and carpeting of deep brown blend to create a rich, subdued interior. There is a balcony in the rear, and two shallow wings at the front in which the pews are ranged at right angles to those in the main auditorium.

The pulpit and platform are backed by light wooden paneling that reaches almost to the ceiling. At the right are the gold pipes of the organ.



Presbyterian Church, Jamesburg

Early in the 19th century, services were held at the old Jamesburg school on the road to Englishtown. Presbyterian clergymen from Spotswood, Cranbury and Tennent preached occasional sermons there. Dissatisfied with this arrangement, many of the Presbyterians rode in a mule-drawn flat car to services at Spotswood or went cross-country to the Cranbury church.

When James Buckelew built a brick school for the town in 1847 he provided a room equipped with a pulpit and seats; a sliding door connected it with the schoolroom. In the spring of 1850, the Rev. George C. Bush of South Amboy came to the school every other Sunday. He converted 12 persons. From 1851 to 1853 services were irregular, but a subscription fund for a church building was started. The church, erected under Mr. Bush's supervision on land given by James Buckelew, was dedicated June 26, 1854. Three weeks before the dedication the Presbytery of New Brunswick had organized the

11 charter members of the Jamesburg church. For the first year the pulpit was filled by supplies, mostly from Princeton Seminary. In the spring of 1885, J. Halstead Carroll was installed with a yearly salary of \$550. During his three-year pastorate, the membership increased to 129.

In 1864 the parsonage was purchased and three years later the church was enlarged by 36 new pews. The Rev. Benjamin S. Everitt, D.D., was called to the church in 1870 and remained for 27 years. During his first winter there was a great revival. Dr. Everitt recalls: "I had been visiting from house to house and had found many who were unconverted. I told it. God's people really felt in earnest for the perishing around them, and about 150 souls were converted."

Under Dr. Everitt the church was continuously enlarged and improved. In 1871 the lecture and Sunday School rooms, and the transepts to the main room adding 25 more pews, were constructed. The spire was replaced in 1883 by the present double-towered front. In 1893 the church was completely renovated and a new organ, the gift of the Christian Endeavor Society, was installed. The kitchen equipment was given by Mrs. George A. Helme, formerly of Jamesburg.

The Christian Endeavor Society, the second in the State, was organized February 10, 1883, with 15 active members; Libby Baremore, Charles Bresse, E. B. Brooks, Mary Eler, Benjamin S. and Frank B. Everitt, J. E. Marryott, Carrie, Emma, George and Maggie A. Mount, Charles E. Paxton, Luther E. Riddle, E. C. Spaulding, C. P. Van Derhoef and Annie C. and Milton I. Voorhees. Spaulding was the first president and Marryott the first secretary.

The Ladies' Aid Society, which antedated the church, was founded by Mrs. James Buckelew, who for 45 years guided and directed church affairs.

The Sunday School, started in 1847 at the Jamesburg schoolhouse with Alexander Redmond as superintendent and Mrs. Buckelew as assistant, now has 205 members; the present church membership is 556.

Pastors who have served the church are:

J. Halstead Carrol	1855-1858
William W. Wells	1858-1869
Benjamin S. Everitt, D.D.	1870-1897
Joseph L. Ewing, D.D.	1898-1903
Edgar C. Mason	1903-1907
S. T. McClenaghan	1907-1914
W. T. B. Edgar	1914-1921
Weaver K. Eubank, D.D.	1922-1927
Andrew S. Layman	1928

Church organizations are: The Ladies' Aid Society, the Women's Missionary Society, three Christian Endeavor Societies (senior, intermediate, junior) and the senior and junior choirs.

First Baptist Church, Jamesburg

Simplicity is the keynote of the Baptist Church. Cream trim enclosing the blue-tinted windows relieves the severity of the brown shingles. The tan front doors open on to a small brick-flanked porch.

The interior walls are of decorated metal painted a light buff. Rock elm pews of a light golden color are ranged before the simple pulpit platform. A deep brown strip of carpeting down the center aisle adds color to the plain wooden floor. The small, foot-pump organ is at present out of order. Music is supplied by a piano. Off the main auditorium is a small Sunday School room attractively furnished with small chairs and tables. In the basement is a large social room with a completely equipped kitchen. During summer Sundays, services are frequently held here because of the comfortable coolness.

The history of this church goes back to the summer of 1884 when a group of German Baptists of Jamesburg and vicinity met at the home of Jacob Buehler near Rhode Hall, where the Rev. Charles A. Schlipf of Newark preached to them. From then until the following summer, when they were organized as a mission station of the First Baptist Church of Hightstown, they worshipped at Buehler's, at the Jamesburg and Pleasant Hill schools and at a small frame chapel at the Snuff Mills of George W. Helme. Feeling the need of a permanent place of worship, the Baptists bought a lot on the corner of Hooker and Stevens Streets and gave generously toward a building.

The structure, practically complete in the fall of 1886, was wrecked by a terrific wind storm and remained unfinished until the winter of 1887. With the decrease in population due to the closing of the Downs and Finch shirt factory in 1889, the church membership was considerably depleted. The parsonage was built in 1892. Two years later, with 55 members, many of whom had been immersed in the lake at Jamesburg in winter months, the mission station became an independent church.

Today the church has 120 members and the Sunday school, started in 1885, has 100. On the first, third and fifth Sunday mornings the sermons are in German. All evening services, prayer



First Baptist Church, Jamesburg



Methodist Episcopal Church, Jamesburg



St. James' Church, Jamesburg

meeting and Sunday school sessions are in English.

The following pastors have served the church:

Charles A. Schlipf	1885-1894
Henry C. Baum	1894-1896
Emil Otto	1896-1899
Ferdinand Walter	1899-1905
Charles A. Schlipf	1905-1907
William Raff	1907-1910
John Landenberger	Summer of 1910
John Ehrenstein	1910-1923
Walter Macoskey	Summer of 1923
R. T. Wagner	1924-1926
Christian Peters	1927

Church organizations are: Baptist Young People's Union, Ladies' Aid Society and King's Daughters' Society.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Jamesburg

The Methodist Episcopal Church is a roomy but rather rambling building of brown shingle with cream trim. Its several facades and wings make it difficult to know which way the church is facing. In the interior the pews are arranged in a semi-circle and the pulpit stands in a corner of the square auditorium. To allow for special occasions with large crowds, the adjoining social room can be opened by large sliding partitions. These arrangements give the interior of the church an informal tone.

The walls are of rough plaster painted buff. Dark paneling extends about three feet from the floor. The organ and choir are placed behind the pulpit.

The church, now numbering 219 members, with 73 in the Sunday School, was organized in 1833 with eight charter members. The first efforts to bring the Methodists of Jamesburg together were made by Mrs. Catherine Elliott, who came from Englishtown in 1874. Every three weeks Robert B. Stephenson of Englishtown held services alternately at her home and at that of Joseph Davison.

In 1882 the *Jamesburg Record* noted that steps were being taken to organize a Methodist Church. The following year a church building, toward which five-year-old Freddie Nodocker gave the first dollar, was started. The church was dedicated in February, 1884, and the Rev. C. Rollin Smith preached his first sermon on March 25, 1884. That spring a Sunday School with 16 students was organized; by the end of the year the enrollment was 90. The year 1884 witnessed many revival meetings, and the church prospered.

A parsonage was built, and in 1904 the church mortgage was burned with much ceremony.

Agitation for a new church began in 1905. Under the leadership of the Rev. H. L. Burkett a new building with nine memorial windows, an organ, steam heat and new furnishings was completed in 1907. The list of pastors follows:

C. Roland Smith	1884-1886
William Franklin	1886-1888
Robert Waples	1888-1891
A. L. Iszard	1891-1897
Alonzo Chambers	1897-1898
Joseph B. Kulp	1898-1901
C. V. D. Conover	1901-1903
C. F. Garrison	1904-1905
H. L. Burkett	1906-1908
Dickerson Moore	1908-1916
Henry Johnson	1916-1919
James B. Shaw	1919-1922
William H. Murphy	1922-1926
Thomas Hess	1926 (part)
Everett N. Hunt	1926-1931
Charles R. Smyth	1931-1936
Edward W. Foote	1936

Organizations of the church are: The Ladies' Aid Society, the Young Women's League and the Epworth League.

St. James Church, Jamesburg

St. James' Church is a squat building of stucco flaked off in spots to disclose a layer of red brick. The simple lines and flat surfaces are softened by the lawns and shrubbery, surrounded by an iron picket fence. Gothic windows with stained-glass panes brighten the exterior.

The interior is dim and the dark metal walls are profusely decorated with plaster groups illustrating incidents in the careers of saints. The ceiling is high, following the configuration of the peaked roof. A large mural over the altar depicts the crucifixion. There is a balcony in the rear.

The Roman Catholics in Jamesburg were under the care of a priest from Princeton until 1865, when a church with ten families was organized. Six years later, Father Kivilitz was appointed priest of St. James' Church by the Bishop of Trenton. Meetings were held in private homes until 1878, when a church was built on land donated by Mrs. James Buckelew, whose husband had provided a site for the Presbyterian Church.

In 1880 Father Kivilitz was given a parish in Freehold; he was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Ruesing, during whose term the rectory was built. St. James' Hall, first public hall of the town, was erected under Father O'Farrell.

The church has been served by the following priests:

Father Kivilitz	1871-1880
Father Ruesing	1880-1884
Father O'Farrell	1884-1886
Father Flanagan	1886-1891
Father Nolan	
Father Calahan	
Father Karney	1898-1906
Father Mooney	1906-1910
Father Mulligan	1910-1913
Father McGragh	1913-1916
Father Larkin	1916

Mt. Carmel Society is the only church organization.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1685 James Johnstone builds his home near Spotswood.
- 1697 Josiah Pricket, Burlington baker, founds Cranbury.
- c. 1734 Union Church erected at Old Church.
- 1747 David Brainerd brings Indians to Bethel, near Jamesburg.
- 1750 Peter Ten Eyck builds first forge near Spotswood.
- 1777 January 20—Col. John Neilson raids Tory forges at Spotswood.
- 1778 June—Washington's army encamped near Cranbury preceding the Battle of Monmouth.
- 1832 The Camden and Amboy Railroad carries its first regular passengers in horse-drawn cars between Bordentown and South Amboy.
- 1832 James Buckelew acquires Gordon's Mills on the present site of Jamesburg.
- 1838 February 23—Township of Monroe set off from South Amboy Township by the council and general assembly of New Jersey.
- 1838 April—First town meeting held at Jacob Van Cleef's Hotel in Spotswood.
- 1853 July 18—Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad begins regular service.
- 1860 East Brunswick Township formed from Monroe and North Brunswick.
- 1862 August—Township Committee offers \$50 bonus to "first 44 residents of the township who volunteer for service in the U. S. Army between August 23 and September, 1862."

- 1864 The First National Bank of Jamesburg organized by James Buckelew.
- 1866 September 4—Jamesburg Sunday School Convention inaugurated.
- 1867 New Jersey State Home for Boys founded near Jamesburg.
- 1867 Potatoes become an important crop, according to minutes of Princeton Agricultural Association.
- 1871 Finley, Gourlay and Finch shirt factory opened at Jamesburg.
- 1872 March—Part of Monroe Township taken to form Cranbury Township.
- 1882 *Jamesburg Record* established.
- 1887 March—Partial separation of Jamesburg from Monroe.
- 1896 Jamesburg becomes an 'independent borough.
- 1901 Rural Free Delivery route instituted from Cranbury.
- 1905 March—Bernarr Macfadden founds his Physical Culture City at Outcalt.
- 1935 March 16—Permanent police department instituted in Monroe Township.
- 1936 Two modern brick consolidated schools erected with the aid of PWA funds.
- 1937 First Democrat in three decades elected to township committee.
- 1938 Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Monroe Township by publication of a history compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Account Books of William Morse and Garret Morse.

Family Documents of Edward Johnson.

Middlesex County Records.

Minute Books of the Borough of Jamesburg.

Minute Book of the Christian Endeavor Society, Jamesburg Presbyterian Church.

Minute Book of the Helping Hand Society, Union Valley M. P. Church.

Minute Book of the Jamesburg Farmers' and Mechanics' Debating Society.

Minute Books of the Township of Monroe.

New Jersey Archives.

Secondary Sources

Barber, John W., and Henry Howe. *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey.* 2nd ed. 525 p. il. Benjamin Olds, Newark, 1861.

Boyer, Charles S. *Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey.* 287 p. il., maps. University of Pennsylvania Press, Phila., 1931.

Clayton, W. W., ed. *History of Union and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey.* 885 p. il., por., maps. Everts and Peck, Phila., 1882.

Gordon, Thomas F. *A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey.* 286 p. Daniel Fenton, Phila., 1834.

Hill, T. Wilton. *Historical Address, July 4, 1876.* 28 p. Allen, Lane and Scott, Phila., 1876.

Monnette, Orra E. *First Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge, Old East New Jersey, 1664-1714.* 1,595 p., maps. Leroy Carman Press, Los Angeles, 1935.

Talbot and Blood, compilers. *The New Jersey State Business Directory for 1866.* 431 p. C. A. Alvord, New York, 1866.

Whitehead, William A. *Contributions to the Early History of Perth Amboy and Vicinity.* 428 p., il. Appleton, New York, 1856.

Newspapers

Cranbury Press, 1885-1908.
Jamesburg Record, 1882-1904.
Middlesex Recorder, 1937.
Monmouth Democrat, 1834-1855.
Monmouth Inquirer, 1834-1845.
New Brunswick Daily Home News, 1937.
New Brunswick Fredonian, 1854-1865.
Trenton Times, 1937.

INDEX

Abraham, Charles	23
Abrahams, James	106
Adams, John	124
Agriculture	48
Allaire, James	119
Allen, Rebecca	105
Altar Guild	120
American Salpa Corporation	60
Appleby Estate	84, 85
Appleby, Gordon	84
Appleby, John	60
Appleby, J. Randolph	84
Applegarth	45, 74
Applegate, Abijah	6, 24, 25, 36, 43, 68, 69, 99, 100
Applegate, Anthony	18, 22, 64, 75
Applegate, A. S.	45
Applegate, Baird	75
Applegate, C. T.	124
Applegate, E.	28
Applegate, Henry	106
Applegate, Howard D.	43
Applegate, James	22
Applegate, John A.	22, 24, 100
Applegate, Mary S.	43
Applegate, V. Perrine	75
Applegate, William	62
Applegate, Wilton T.	39
Appleget, Thomas B.	124
Apprentices	105
Arber, Benjamin	65
Area	11
Ashmore, Anthony	14
Automobiles	43, 90, 91
Ayres, William	120
Bagg, Richard T.	109
Baier, Dorothy	98
Baird, John	22
Baker, Mrs. George	98, 101, 109
Baptist Young People's Union	129
Barclay, Robert	13

Baremore, Liby	126
Barkelaw, Nelson	74
Barrett, Mrs. Herbert	109
Bass, John	13
Bastedo, David	124
Baum, Henry C.	129
Bayles, J. O.	122
Bell, Robert	120
Belluscio, Anthony	41, 110
Bendy, George	22, 39
Bennett and Clayton Co., Inc.	72
Bennett, Daniel	65
Bennett, G. A.	72
Bennett, Henry	88
Bennett, S. E.	72
Bergen, George D.	70, 71
Bethel	15, 104
Betts, William R. S.	122
Bird, Frederick M.	120
Blackford, Nathan	106
Bloodgood, C. E.	122
Board of Education	109, 110
Box, Wilbur C.	38, 103
Breese, Charles	126
Britton, J.	95
Brooks, E. B.	126
Brown, Charles S.	66, 99
Brown, Mrs. Courtney	101, 110
Brown, John	17, 60
Browne, David C.	66
Browne, J. D.	99
Buckelew, Fred. L.	32, 96, 99, 118, 119
Buckelew, Isaac S.	65, 96, 99
Buckelew, James	22, 23, 49, 51, 93, 106, 125
Buckelew, Mrs. James	124, 126, 130
Buckelew, John D.	22, 65, 93, 95
Buckley, J.	64
Buehler, Jacob	127
Burkett, H. L.	130
Bush, George C.	125

Butcher, Howard J.	98	Davison, Joseph	26, 27, 129
Butcher, John D.	6, 38	Davison, J. S.	68
Butcher, Samuel H.	34	Davison, Mount	51
Butcher, William	110	Davison, Oscar	95
Camden and Amboy Railroad		Davison, Mrs. Oscar	95
9, 21, 34, 51, 87, 88, 89, 90, 119		Davison, Paul	40
Campbell, James	13	Davison, P. F.	28
Carlson, Fred	98	Davison, Sarah	124
Carroll, J. Halstead	126	Davison, Sylvanus	95
Castle, T. B.	124	Davison, W. H.	40
Census	9	Davison, William I. C.	40
Chaimberlin, Joseph	77	Daw, W. E.	120
Chaimberlin, Walter	38	Day, James	118
Chambers, Alonzo	139	Day, John	22
Clark, Robert	32	Dean, Daniel	121
Clayton, A. A.	72	Delaware and Raritan Canal	88
Clayton, Addie	105	Democratic Club	102
Clayton, Brittain	123	Denback, Stanley	35
Clayton, B. S.	72	Dennison, William T.	72
Clayton, Eliza	123	Derrick, Calvin	113
Clayton, E. W.	99	Dey, Benjamin	105
Clayton, Fred A.	7, 38	Dey, Charles	6
Clayton, Joel	83	Dey, Mrs. Charles	103
Clymer, Charles P.	99	Dey, Daniel I.	123
Combs, Joseph	88	Dey, David	123
Combs, Jonathan Jr.	121	Dey, Enoch	106
Compton, S.	120	Dey, Frank H.	99
Connerty, Patrick	32	Dey, Harvey H.	39
Connors, W. H.	108	Dey, James	70
Conover, Benjamin	122	Dey, Laura	102
Conover, C. V. D.	130	Dey, Mary	123
Coons, Ellery	124	Dey, Peter W.	22, 39
Cornell, Augustine W.	120	Dey, Samuel E.	73
Corwin, C. E.	122	Dey, Sarah Ann	123
Courter, George S.	99	Dey, William E.	65
Courter, William H.	65, 95, 96, 99	Dill, William	59
Courtney, James	75	Disborough, John H.	64
Courtney's Hotel	75	Dock, Ida	98
Cox, John C.	83	Downs & Finch	30, 66, 67
Cox, Nathaniel	70	Duncan, George M.	99
Cranberries	51	Duncan, William S.	98
Cranbury	9, 14, 18, 19, 61, 104	Dye, Franklin	93
Cranbury First Church	114	Earhart, John	59
Cranbury Inn	62	East Brunswick Township	23, 43
Cranbury Mills	61	Eastman, James H.	93
Crawford, E. John	13	Easton, T. C.	122
Crocker, Mrs. Albert	109	Edgar, W. T. B.	126
Croes, John	120	Edwards, Charles	53, 97
Croes, Robert	120	Edwards, Charles H.	99
Crosby, C. J.	65	Edwards, James	13
Crow, Robert H.	17	Edwards, Thomas	13
Cruger, Charles	32	Ehrenstein, John	129
Curry, Joseph Elsworth	116	Eler, Mary	126
Dancer, Hillman	41	Eler, Mathew	89
Davidson, William	13, 19	Ellerson, C.	124
Davison, Albert	95, 105	Elliottt, Catherine	129
Davison, Ancil	98	Elliott, Jennie	65
Davison, Ancil Jr.	98	Elliott, Thomas	66
Davison, C. M.	32, 94	Ely, Thomas	22
Davison, Derrick G.	43, 68	Emens, Frank W.	32
Davison, Garret S.	68	Emmons, William S.	32
Davison, G. F.	93	English, John	11
Davison, Glenn	6	Eubank, Weaver K.	126
Davison, John A.	22, 64	Eubb, Margaret	11

Everitt, Benjamin S.	99, 116, 126
Everitt, Frank B.	116, 126
Evernham, George	76
Evernham, Elison	76
Eversham, James N.	39
Falconer, David	13
Farr, Frederick	96, 99
Farr, Joseph	89
Federal Writers' Project	6, 133
Fire Protection	37
First Baptist Church of Jamesburg	29, 127
First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury	114
First Settlers	9, 11, 13, 14
Fleming, Richard	64
Foote, Edward W.	130
Forman, Samuel H.	96
Forman, Willard	34
Forsgate Farms	83
Fortsch, John	7, 38
Fowler, Andrew	120
Franklin, Benjamin	119
Franklin, William	119, 130
Frazie, Eliphelett	13
Freed, J. K.	124
Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad	49, 51, 88
Frishmuth, Robert	122
Furbeck, Dorothy	109
Garrison, C. F.	130
Gartz, Louis	77
Ghiandoni, John	78
Gibb, John	11
Gordon, Thomas	13
Graff, Mrs. Robert	102
Grange, Pioneer No. 1	97
Gravel Hill	100
Grover, Joseph	13
Gubnitsky, Nathan	103, 109
Gulick, Aaron	22, 88, 96
Gulick, Joseph	121
Half Acre	21, 31, 73
Hammell, E. S.	32, 65
Hampton, H. H.	124
Hardenbergh, Jacob R.	121
Harmeling, Stephen J.	122
Harris, H. F.	122
Harris, Walter L.	39
Harrison, John	14
Hausman, Anna	105
Hausman, Bertha	105
Hausman, Cora	105
Heath, John N.	99
Heege, Lester	40
Heidinger, F. W.	72
Heis, T. T.	124
Helme, George A.	126
Helme, George W.	127
Helmbold, J. K.	123
Helping Hand Society	103, 116, 122
Henry, Symmes Cleves	116
Herbert, John	32
Hesse, Thomas	130
Hill, John	64, 123

Hill, T. W.	99
Hoagland, C. B.	99
Hoagland, C. E.	93
Hoagland, C. W.	76
Hoffman, Charles G.	28, 34
Hoffman, Forman	28, 51
Hoffman, George	99
Hoffman, Joseph A.	43
Hoffman Station	77
Hoffman, Thomas	22, 74
Hoffman, William	51
Homfrey, Jeston	17
Hooper, Major	39
Howell, B. F.	45
Huckel, W.	124
Huffman, John	106
Hungarians	9, 56
Hunt, Everett N.	130
Hutchinson, Irving	65
Hutchinson, Isaac R.	39
Hutton, Elizabeth	13
Independent Order of Odd Fellows	99
Indians	15, 51
Industry	57
Indrickson's Garage	82
Irons, William	124
Isham, R. G.	22
Iszard, A. L.	130
Italians	56
Ives, James	22, 106
James, William A.	32
Jamesburg	7, 9, 11, 17, 19, 21, 29, 30, 32, 36, 63, 90, 104
Jamesburg Agricultural Society	49, 96
Jamesburg First National Bank	65
Jameson, Walter	105
Jamieson, Alfred	123
Jamieson, Charles	95
Jamieson, Elmer	95
Jamieson, Fred	100
Jamieson, Matilda	123
Jennings, Frank	32
Johnson, Cornelius	86, 121
Johnson, Edward	6, 38, 121
Johnson, Henry	130
Johnson, J. B.	124
Johnson, John Lewis	106, 119
Johnson, Joseph	122
Johnson, Matthias	19, 62, 105, 119
Johnson, Reuben	106
Johnson, Thomas	62
Johnstone, James	11, 13
Johnstone, John	11
Jones, George D.	124
Jones, Jehu	120
Joslin, Mrs. Charles	78
Kaighin, John	13
Kelly, Oliver Hudson	97
Keyes, Thomas	39
Kieugle, A.	32
Kivilitz, Father	130, 131
Knights of Labor	66
Knights of Pythias	99
Knight, William	122
Kulp, Joseph B.	130

Labor	55, 56
Laird, Alexander	39, 106
Landenberger, John	129
Lane, George	60
Laning, Caroline	123
Laning, Eliza	123
Lawrie's Road	11
Layman, Andrew S.	126
Leith, D. G.	124
Lemming, James	95
Letts, Eugene	26
Leuppie, Jacob	93, 124
Lifshey, Mrs. Frederick	109
Limming, Charles E.	99
Livezey, Edward	93
Livingston, John H.	121
Lokerson, W. H.	90
Lott, Daniel	73
Lucas, John M.	99
Ludlow, John	121
Luire, Benjamin	62
Mace, Samuel	78
Macfadden, Bernarr	79, 80, 81, 82
Macoskey, Walter	129
Magee, Joseph C.	22, 32, 65, 96
Magrino, Philip C.	41
Manning, John H.	122
Manser, Robert	98
Marryott, Ann Maria	124
Marryott, J. E.	126
Marryott, Samuel	124
Marsh, John E.	65
Mason, Edgar C.	126
Matchaponix	104
Matchet, Charles	106
Matilda Lodge	99
McBride, Willis	102
McClenaghan, S. T.	126
McClure, John	122
McCoy, Margaret	102
McDowell, Catherine	109
McDowell, George	22, 25, 93
McDowell, George A.	22
McDowell, Isaac	124
McDowell, Lizzie	105
McKean, Robert	117, 120
McKnight, Charles	116
McNamee, F.	99
McPherson, John R.	45
Merrill, William	13
Mershon, Thomas S.	23
Methodist Episcopal Church of Jamesburg	129
Methodist Protestant Church of Union Valley	122
Middleton, Charles	96
Miller, Anna	32
Miller, Charles C.	89
Miller, James	13
Monroe Hotel	31, 65, 74
Moore, Dickerson	130
Moore, Henry	119
Morales, Felix	103
Morgan, W. T.	120
Morgan, W. C.	117
Morris, Nathaniel W.	65

Morse, Bessie	7, 103
Morse, Charles A.	34
Morse, Garret	63
Morse, George	74
Morse, William	62, 73
Mortimore, George	71
Morton, Thomas	122
Mount Carmel Society	131
Mount, Carrie	126
Mount, Charles P.	77
Mount, Mrs. D. A.	74
Mount, David	39
Mount, Emma	126
Mount, Enos A.	35, 45, 75
Mount, G. W.	64
Mount, George	110, 126
Mount, Gilbert	22
Mount, Mrs. H. E.	73
Mount, James	124
Mount, John H.	68, 99
Mount, Mahala	124
Mount, Maggie A.	126
Mount, Peter	106
Mount, Vandoren	39
Mount, W.	68
Mount, William G.	22, 71, 99
Mount, William V.	39
Mountt, William	11
Moure, Robert	11
Murphy, William H.	130
Murray, Emmeline	105
Negroes	19, 26, 55, 112
Neilson, Samuel	119
New Jersey State Home for Boys	111, 112, 113
Newton, Thomas	119
Nielson, John	18
Nodocker, Fred	29, 99, 129
O'Keefe, Elva	6, 39, 45
O'Keefe, John W.	103
Okerson, David	93
Old Church	18
Oretel, Dorothy	98
Otto, Emil	129
Outcalt	78
Outcalt, John D.	60
Parker, Joel	111
Parkman, Charles M.	120
Paxson, Alexander	122
Paxton, Charles E.	126
Paxton, James	22
Paxton, John	106
Perdun, Isaac	122
Perrine, Charles	78
Perrine, David M.	22, 64, 71
Perrine, Frank	90
Perrine, George B.	69
Perrine, Gilbert	70
Perrine, John	106
Perrine, John M.	93
Perrine, John, Jr.	119
Perrine, Joseph	119
Perrine, Joseph M.	105
Perrine, Luella	105
Perrine, Samuel E.	70, 77

Perrine, Samuel J.	68	Rossell, George	19, 64
Perrine, Thomas E.	28, 77	Rowe, Wyckoff	109
Perrine, William	22	Ruding, Arthur	27, 70
Peters, Christian	129	Rue, Ella	105
Pettie, George E.	94, 95	Rue, John L.	22, 119
Petty, Asher	22	Rue, Joseph	119
Petty, George	83	Rue, Joseph, Jr.	119
Petty, P. V.	99	Rue, Maria	123
Petty, Wilton	99	Rue, Nathaniel S.	88
Phillips, Joseph F.	119, 120	Rue, William	106
Phillips, W. L.	120	Ruesing, Father	131
Physical Culture City	79, 80, 81, 82	Rural Free Delivery	43
Piorkowski, John	41	Russel, L. S.	120
Pittinger, Joshua	104	Sadowski, Stanley	41
Platt, G. Duer	110	St. James Church	130
Plumstead, Clement	13	St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church of Spotswood	117
Police Department	39	Schenk, Joseph	74
Pollitt, Henry J.	98	Schools	104
Pollitt, Mrs. Henry J.	98	Schuster, John	41
Polish	9, 56	Sears, William	78
Pope, John	62	Servis, R.	24
Population	9	Severance, C. M.	122
Porter, Mary	103	Shaw, James B.	130
Post Office	43	Shufelt, Herman	41
Potts, Samuel	62	Shultz, George	51
Potts, Thomas	22	Schultz, George A.	99
Predmore, James	17	Schultz, John G.	65
Presbyterian Church of Jamesburg	124	Silvers, Ezekiel	26
Prest, Matthias	60	Skinner, Louis E.	122
Prickett, Josiah	14	Skinner, William	117, 120
Prospect Plains	21, 34, 42, 68	Smith, Adam	22
Pukatch, Alex	41	Smith, Andrew	117, 118
Pulin, Enoch	68	Smith, C. Roland	129, 130
PWA	109	Smith, Daniel Upham	122
Raff, William	129	Smith, Francis H.	120
Railroad House	27, 70, 71, 100	Smith, H.	122
Raritan Canal	50	Smith, Isaac	120
Raritan River	7, 29	Smith, Leonard	75
Ray, Robert	13	Smith, Lloyd	98
Redmond, Alexander	93, 126	Smith, Thomas	116, 122
Redmond, James	64, 95	Smock, Jennie	99
Red Tavern (Applegarth)	18, 19, 74	Smock, Sarah E.	99
Reed, Edgar	78	Smythe, Maude A.	109
Reed, Joseph	106	Smyth, Charles R.	130
Reed, Joseph W.	39, 68	Snedeker, C.	65
Reformed Dutch Church of Spotswood	120	Snedeker, Garret I.	23
Reid, Albert	105	Snedeker, Thomas	96
Reid, James	13	Snedeker, William K.	72
Reid, John	13	Snowden, Gilbert T.	116
Reid, Henry	103, 110	Snowhill, Andrew	22, 23
Reid, Lizzie	100	Snowhill, Daniel	59
Relief	45, 46	Snowhill, George H.	22
Republican Club	102	Sodin, John B.	64
Reynolds, F. T. B.	122	Somers, L. R.	90
Rhode Hall	19, 62, 65, 101, 104	Sonmans, Peter	13
Rice, Henry L.	122	South River	17
Riddle, Luther	126	Spaulding, Cyril	122
Riggs, Louis	22	Spaulding, E. C.	126
Robbins, Lydia	123	Spotswood	9, 11, 13, 19, 21, 57, 104
Robinson, Alexander	105	Spotswood Forge	18, 57, 58
Rogers, Harrison	75	Spratford, Russell C.	98
Rogers, William H.	106	Spratford, Mrs. Russell	98
Romweber, Emil	73	Spratt, John David	116

Stearns, John	120	Vandenbergh, Robert R.	22, 27, 34, 71
Stephenson, Robert B.	129	Vandenbergh, Mrs. R. R.	102
Stewart, W. K.	120	Vandenbergh, James	74
Stillwell, Frank	110	Vandenbergh, Nelson	110
Stonaker, Sally	105	Vandenbergh, Robert M.	68, 74
Stoney, Lizzie	105	Vandenbergh, R. Maitland	6, 38, 102, 110
Stout, Arnold	98	Vandenbergh, S. D.	74, 77
Stout, Charles	26	Vanderwater, Albertus	122
Stout, David	119	Vandeveer, Hannah	124
Stout, Peter	13	Vandeveer, John C.	124
Strohauer, Paul J.	122	Vanwickle, S. M.	22
Stryker, Peter L.	22, 39	Versazi, Mrs. Paul	42
Stults, C. A.	33	Vogel, William	95, 124
Stults, C. B.	99	Vohman, John	52
Stults, C. C.	99	Vohman, Mrs. John	52
Stults, Charles Addison	74	Voorhees, Annie C.	126
Stults, Elias D.	123	Voorhees, Bert	62
Stults, John B.	99	Voorhees, Cornelius	62
Stults, John Edgar	97	Voorhees, E. B.	94
Stults, Ralph	96	Voorhees, I. S.	90
Sunday Schools	93	Voorhees, John L.	22
Sutphin, Richard	106	Voorhees, Milton I.	89, 90, 126
Suydam, George	106	Voorhees, Peter	22
Swanson, Charles	32	Voorhees, Raymond E.	109
Symmes, Joseph Gaston	116	Wader, George	78
Talbot, John	117	Wagner, R. T.	129
Tansur, Thomas	120	Walker, Frank	100
Tennent, Gilbert	15	Wallace, W. B.	124
Tennent, William	17, 115	Walter, Ferdinand	129
Thompson, E. A.	74	Walters, Edward	73
Thompson, Ed.	105	Walters, William	42
Thompson, Edwin R.	68	Walters, Mrs. William	109
Thompson, John N.	74	Walton, Norman	106
Thompson, Mary A.	74	Waple, R. M.	124
Thompson, Nelson	74	Waples, Robert	130
Throckmorton, Samuel	119	Ward, John M.	117, 119, 120
Tice, Albert	70	Ward, W. C.	106
Tilton, Anna Amanda	105	Warne, Thomas	13
Tilton, James H.	110	Watson, H.	124
Tilton, Marianne	105	Webb, N. E.	124
Tilton, William	105	Welch, Margaret	11
Toland, Andrew J.	52	Wells, William W.	126
Toland, Mrs. Andrew J.	52	West, William	64
Tracy, George	103	Wetherill, John	118
Tracy, Thomas	39	Wetherill, Samuel	62, 74
Truex, Jacob	13	Whitefield, George	15, 115
Union Valley	78	Whitehead, Samuel	49
Union Valley Methodist Protestant Church	122	Whitson, Lindsey	109
Union Valley Tavern	78	Williamson, David	62
Van Artsdalen, George	65, 99	Willis, Ralph	122
Van Cleef's Tavern	21, 23	Wills, Frank	117, 119
Van Derhoef, C. P.	126	Wilson, Mrs. George	109
Van Doren, John	93	Wilson, Harold	110
Van Doren, W. H.	122	Wilson, Mrs. Olga	102
Van Dyke, Ferdinand V.	100	Wilson, Peter	13
Van Dyke, Henry	122	Woodhull, George Spafford	116
Van Dyke, Howard, Jr.	98	Workers Alliance	10
Van Hook, Isaac	122	World War	36, 82
Van Liew, J. G.	106	Worts, Charles S.	87
Van Liew, John C.	122	WPA	10, 38, 41, 46, 109
Van Wickle, Stephen	95	Wyckoff, Libby	105
Vandenbergh, Mrs. Herbert	7, 103	Wyckoff, Maggie	105
		Wyckoff, Peter	14



American Guide Series

